



February 2019 | Vol. 22 • Issue 11

www.amusementtoday.com

Showmen's expectations high for IISF Super Trade Show and Extravaganza

Development of new attendee registration database underway

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GIBSONTON, Fla. — Registration for the 2019 International Independent Showmen's Foundation (IISF) Super Trade Show and Extravaganza was going "extremely well" as of mid-January, according to show organizers.

"I anticipate about the same numbers this year as we had last year," said Teresa Rimes, one of the event planners. "We might be a little down right now, but you know how it is every year. People wait and, in the last two weeks, everyone jumps on the train."

The show is set for Feb. 5-8, Gibsonton, Fla., on the club grounds of the International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA) on Riverview Drive. IISF is the fundraising arm of the association.

The IISF Super Trade Show and Extravaganza brings together a plethora of outdoor amusement professionals. They include owners, operators and managers of carnivals, amusement

► See IISF, page 6



The 2019 International Independent Showmen's Foundation Super Trade Show and Extravaganza takes place Feb. 5-8 in Gibsonton, Fla. Show planners, noting the number of exhibit booths has increased over the last several years, are hoping for a great turnout. During the 2018 event, the outdoor exhibit area was alive with amusements. AT/GARY SLADE



Self-described tech nerds and business partners Brent Bushnell and Eric Gradman are the ringleaders of Two Bit Circus. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Two Bit Circus forges alt-FEC fun in downtown Los Angeles

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LOS ANGELES — It's an arcade, but it also features a bar with robot bartender. It's a midway, but with virtual reality thrills and interactive sideshows instead of rides. It's a family entertainment center (FEC), except for adults-only evenings on Fridays and Saturdays after 9 p.m.

It's **Two Bit Circus**, and more than defining new forms of fun for just about everyone, it is upending traditional and contemporary notions of what constitutes an FEC while using technology to promote sociability.

The brainchild of **Brent Bushnell** and **Eric Gradman**, friends and technology experts who share a lifelong passion for computer code, software and gadgetry and their entertainment potential, Two Bit Circus debuted with celebrity fanfare last September in downtown Los Angeles. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, **Bill Nye the Science Guy**, representatives of **Intel** and other project supporters welcomed this unusual addition to the urban landscape.

"There's no question that Los Angeles is the city that is setting the pace. And Two Bit Circus is setting the pace in the city that sets the pace," Garcetti told the attending media.

Since the early 2000s, L.A.'s once-unfashionable core

► See CIRCUS, page 8

NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.
PLEASE RUSH!
Mailed Tuesday, January 29, 2019

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT. WORTH TX
PERMIT # 2069



AMUSEMENT VIEWS
Page 4



PARKS & FAIRS
Pages 10-19



WATER PARKS
Pages 20-23



BUSINESS
Pages 24-35



SAFETY
Pages 36-46



CLASSIFIEDS
Page 47

EWORCS PRO TRULY MAKES OUR ARM ROCK STAR THE STAR OF STRATES SHOWS' MIDWAY!

“Eworks Pro LED Lighting Systems are the lights that are always on. Their unique waterproofing system prevents failure from moisture, so the lights do not need to be changed every time it rains. We have had their lights for two years and have not had a single failure. Eworks Pro truly makes our ARM Rock Star the star of Strates Shows' midway!”

Doug Dills
Strates Shows



EWorks Pro
LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS

3939 Forsyth Road, Winter Park, FL 32792 USA
407-332-0151 | www.eworkspro.com

MADE IN THE USA



The *games* The World Plays™

- New Sales
- Parts
- Service
- Repairs



Water Game - Line Up Trailer



Whopper Water™

The Worldwide Source For All Your Game Needs!



Water Game/Balloon Bust - Line Up Trailer



Hang Time™

Visit Out Outside Booth At Gib-Town Feb. 5 - 8, 2019

427 WHAC-A-MOLE WAY • HOLLY HILL • FLORIDA • 32117

Phone 1-386-677-0761 Fax 1-386-677-0794

WWW.BOBSSPACERACERS.COM

AT 1719 TM AND © BOBS SPACE RACERS, INC. 2019



Portable Version



AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: B. Derek Shaw, bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Which '-est' matters most?



Shaw

In my early visits to ride roller coasters at amusement and theme parks, I quickly established four characteristics for determining a great ride experience: smoothness, swiftness, airtime and pacing. Only more recently did I add a fifth: re-rideability.

At *Amusement Today's* 2018 Golden Ticket Awards at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., last September, I was pleased to see Phoenix at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pa. claim the title of Best Wooden Roller Coaster.

The Herbert Schmeck-designed ride, which originally began life as The Rocket at Playland Park in San Antonio, Texas, was relocated to and reborn at Knoebels — with work performed by Charles Dinn and Dinn Construction — in 1985. Phoenix has landed in the Golden Ticket Awards' wooden coaster top 10 since the inception of the honors in 1998. (The only other wooden coaster that has made the list consistently is Kings Island's The Beast.) Starting in the 10th slot, Phoenix hovered in the middle range before advancing to second in 2011 and taking that position again in 2016 and 2017. However, the coaster had never notched the top spot. Until now.

It seems that marketing departments are always looking for the sizzle to sell the steak, or the ideal "-est" to ace the advertising test. "Newest" is no longer is enough; the job calls for superlatives such as "tallest," "steepest," "longest," "fastest" and "scariest." (Recently, Hersheypark in Hershey, Pa., in describing a new steel Bolliger & Mabillard hyper or giga coaster set to arrive in 2020, even added "sweetest.")

Which brings us back to Phoenix. With a lift hill rising 78 feet and a track length of 3,200 feet, the coaster certainly isn't the highest or longest. It travels at 45 mph, so it's not the fastest. And while it was originally erected by the Philadelphia Toboggan Co. in Texas in 1947 before being rebuilt at Knoebels in 1985, it's not the oldest.

The point is, good things in the realm of amusements don't necessarily come in the largest packages. It's all about what makes the customer happiest.

Ultimately, adding "-est" doesn't matter when a roller coaster incorporates all five of the aforementioned characteristics. It's simply the best.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



GUEST OPINION: Bob Johnson, President & CEO, Outdoor Amusement Business Association

Industry continues to thrive in spite of challenges

The mobile amusement industry, including carnivals, circuses and concessionaires operating at fairs and festivals, keeps a keen eye on the weather. Last year in the U.S., we had record heat bookending the season, huge wildfires in the West and two major hurricanes.

Despite these challenges, the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) had a good year!

As I retire this month and my friend Greg Chiecko takes over as OABA's president and CEO, the board has asked that I assist him with his transition from one of the country's top 10 fairs, the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), to learning more about the mobile amusement industry. I have happily begun doing so.

I am proud and honored to have served OABA's board and members, and to have worked with other trade associations for the betterment of all. Over the past 24 years, much has been accomplished with regard to state amusement ride safety, education and OABA's member initiatives.

For the last two decades, our primary con-



Johnson

cern has been the costly, over-regulated legal seasonal guest worker program administered by the Dept. of Homeland Security and the Dept. of Labor (DOL). While we are small compared to other seasonal industries, our members bring some 5,000 to 7,000 H-2B visa employees from Mexico and South Africa each season. This past year, the demand by all stakeholders exceeded 97,000 visas for only 33,000 slots, and DOL's iCert website crashed — taking two weeks to reopen. Our members are extremely concerned about their staffing this season.

Upcoming in Tampa, our board mix will change as OABA elects new officers and nominates directors to be elected by the membership attending our 54th Annual Meeting. Larry Yaffe of ESY Financial will become OABA's chair; his goal is to improve the OABA brand and marketing of member services.

This is a great industry, with hard-working families — many exceeding three generations of ownership. My hope is that the next generation will have the same enthusiasm their parents have for entertaining hundreds of millions of guests.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columnist(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2019 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

Address: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA

Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

Phone: (817) 460-7220

Fax: (817) 265-NEWS (6397)

Websites: www.AmusementToday.com, www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries

Founder & Publisher

Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3
gslade@amusementtoday.com

Accounting & Classified

Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1
spiccola@amusementtoday.com

Assistant Office Manager, Circulation

Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5
sbreen@amusementtoday.com

Advertising

Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432
snichols@amusementtoday.com

Managing Editor

Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Editorial

Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 843-3050
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Production Manager

John Robinson • (513) 256-1441
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Monthly Contributors

Dan Feicht, Bubba Flint, Richard Munch, Janice Witherow

Association Memberships

ACE, AIMS International, ASTM, IAAPA, IISF, IRT/iROC, NAARSO, NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA, PAPA, PACE, SLA, TTIA, WWA

Industry Affiliated Charities

Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland, National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives



2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Melissa Timco, Baynum Painting, Inc.

For **Melissa Timco**, working in the amusement industry began with a marketing internship with the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions**. From there, she enjoyed stints with **Ralph Alberts Co., Inc.**, and **Premier Rides, Inc.**, before landing at **Baynum Painting, Inc.**, a leading painter of roller coasters and rides. As director of Baynum's amusement park division, Timco now oversees services provided to the company's clients. Her strong relationships in the business, coupled with her project management skills and attention to detail, have contributed to her success.

Number of years in the industry:
10 years, professionally.

Best thing about the industry:
Easy... the people! Such a remarkably diverse group of individuals all working to make people smile and keep them safe while doing it — what could be better?!

Favorite amusement park ride:
With so many to choose from, let's go nostalgic: Kangaroo at **Kennywood Park**.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be... I think I could pull off planning and coordinating events.

Biggest challenge facing our industry:
Opinions come from experience. Having served the industry for 10 years with companies that were safety focused, I believe the industry's biggest opportunity is developing programs and solutions for rust/corrosion prevention and remediation.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...
Site visits to our customers' properties and seeing their successes first hand.

It's February! Snow... love it or loathe it?
Is there a word worse than "loathe"? Give me sunshine, 90-degree weather and bare feet every day, please!

My favorite catchphrase is... "So you're telling me there's a chance!" — Lloyd Christmas.

The last vacation I took was to... Moab, Utah. Hiking **Arches National Park**, off-roading the slickrock trails and navigating **Canyonlands National Park**... stunning views!

Would you fit in more in Los Angeles or New York City? L.A. for its environment but New York for its pizza — I choose pizza!

You are in the airport. What do you usually do while waiting for your flight?
Continuously tap my pocket to make sure I still have my cell phone.

The last time I was laughed out loud was...
Five seconds ago. I laugh constantly and surround myself with those who find humor in all things.



With a decade of professional experience in the amusement industry, Melissa Timco currently serves as director of Baynum Painting's amusement park division. COURTESY BAYNUM PAINTING, INC.

On a typical Friday night, I...
Enjoy time with friends and family or go out for a good meal.

If I could choose a TV family to be part of, it would have to be... The Weissmans, as in Midge Maisel's family on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. The comedic relief from father Abe coupled with the ability to share Midge and her mother's closet makes them an easy sell!

Favorite wintertime activity:
Placing logs in the fireplace, curling up under blankets on the couch and watching a movie with my main squeeze.

The last time I wore high-heeled shoes: Too recently, for my comfort.

Pick one: ESPN or HGTV? ESPN, all day.

In one word, describe your car: Bae.

At a restaurant, I usually order this drink with my meal:
Wine... just bring the bottle.

You have just won the lotto. The very first thing you do is...
Call the lawyer.

Favorite breakfast food:
Coffee... because adulting is hard.

Favorite cartoon as a kid: *Tom and Jerry*.

My dream house is... A farmhouse with views of open fields as far as the eye can see.

Pick one: steak or lobster?
Steak! Blue rare — the colder, the better.

MAILBAG

A noble green initiative at Knoebels

To the Editor:

I just had to write regarding the article "Recycling Program Works at Knoebels," by B. Derek Shaw [*Amusement Today*, December 2018]. I have been visiting Knoebels since 1999 and it is one of my favorite parks for many reasons, and this article highlights one of the reasons why.

After seeing signs "recycle your Pepsi cups here" on the yellow cans in the park, I was so excited, but it made me wonder why every park doesn't do this. I live in an area that had voluntary recycling for a long time but now has mandatory recycling (I have a 95-gallon cart on my front porch that we regularly fill), and based on my travels, I feel lucky. There are times that I find myself taking plastic bottles back to my car to take home when parks don't have recycling cans, as I refuse to allow these items to wind up in a landfill.

I feel that Knoebels is an absolute trailblazer in their recycling effort, and I applaud Trevor Knoebel and his family for doing such a wonderful job to preserve the environment and continue to increase the amount of recyclable materials the park produces. I also applaud *Amusement Today* for running an article like this; my hope is that other businesses, especially parks, no matter what size, will look into ways to improve or at least consider recycling.

I feel if you have a soda machine in your business, it's your responsibility to offer recycling. However, I understand not all areas / states offer or mandate this. Since Knoebels was able to make their Pepsi cups recyclable, what is stopping other businesses from following suit? I hope this information at least starts some conversations.

Thanks to everybody for sharing, and keep up the great work!
Sarah A. Windisch
Wexford, Pa.



The recycling facility at Knoebels, acquired by park owner Dick Knoebel at auction in 1996. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

EPCOT evolves away from education

To the Editor:

Growing up in South Florida during the 1980s, my family and I were fortunate enough to visit EPCOT at least once a year. Whether I knew it or not, the ingenious rides and attractions of Future World accelerated my passion for science and aerospace. It was a place where my love for amusement parks and thirst for knowledge came as one.

Throughout the years, we have watched EPCOT change rather drastically. While *Body Wars* was not a favorite amongst many, *Wonders of Life* kept the park on par with the attraction's exploration of the human body.

The decimation of *Horizons*, the removal of the *Dreamfinder* from *Imagination!* and the offensive transformation of *Spaceship Earth* brought fears regarding the vision and purpose of the park.

The closure of *Energy* has proved that Walt Disney's vision of an Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow is gone. It was about expanding the mind to think scientifically outside the box.

Guardians of the Galaxy is about the bottom dollar. Educational entertainment is void. EPCOT did not have to erase its past in order to succeed in the future. It chooses once again to deeply disappoint the era of patrons who made the park succeed to what it is now — whatever that may be, or become.

Reagen Christine Emlet
Cincinnati, Ohio

ERRATA

In the January issue of *Amusement Today*, our coverage of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions and Showmen's League of America conventions in San Antonio, Texas, inaccurately described Star Child as the co-owner of Stilt Circus. She is president / CEO, founder and sole owner of Stilt Circus, Inc.

In the same coverage, a caption under an image related to Pro View Global Digital Surveillance misidentified Julia Andrews. AT regrets the errors.

In and around Gibtown

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. — Early February will be a busy one in town and in the region for the outdoor amusement business industry.

Along with the **2019 International Independent Showmen's Foundation (IISF) Trade Show and Extravaganza**, set for Feb. 5-8, at the **International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA)** club grounds, a number of other events are set for the week for those in the industry.

The **Fourth Annual Fair Partner's Shootout Sporting Clay Competition** is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 7, at **Fishhawk Sporting Clay** in Lithia, Fla.

The competition is sponsored by the **Florida Federation of Fairs, Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)** and the **National Independent Concessionaires Association**.

The **Florida State Fair**, Tampa, opens during the annual IISF event. The event runs Feb. 7-18. **Wade Shows** provides the midway.

OABA will hold its **Annual Meeting and Chairman's Reception** on Friday, Feb. 8, at the **Sheraton Tampa**. During that meeting and reception, 2018 OABA Chair **Jay Strates** of **Strates Shows** will pass the gavel to incoming 2019 OABA Chair **Larry Yaffe** of **Firestone Financial, LLC**. **Debbie Powers** of **Powers Great American Midways**, will become first vice chair, while **Mick Brajevich** will move into the second vice chair position.

—Pam Sherborne

► IISF

Continued from page 1

rental companies, amusement / theme parks, and family entertainment centers, as well as manufacturers and suppliers of amusement rides, food, games, plush, electrical / lighting, vinyl signage, and food and housing trailers.

Rimes said show organizers are excited about an attendee database currently being created by **Andy Mayo**, son of **Chuck Mayo**, IISA chairman of registration.

"In the past, we have had to start completely over with registration information every year," Rimes said. "Next year, we won't have to. We feel this database program is going to save us 90 percent of the time we used to spend on registration."

This past November marked the third consecutive year IISA has had a booth at the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo** in Orlando. Rimes, who has been attending that show on behalf of IISA, said IISA's presence there continues to draw new members to her organization.

Rinda Popovich, 2017-18 IISA president, told *Amusement Today* that she felt the past year has gone well for the association. Membership increased, with two members receiving an IISA Gold Card membership, which means that each of them brought in at least 15 new members.

The two members were **Courtney Schmidt** and Popovich's daughter, **Manda Popovich**.

"Both are young people and we are very happy about that," Popovich said. "That means we are bringing more young people into the association, and that is a good thing."

IISA's president's banquet for Popovich will be held Thursday evening, Feb. 7, on the club grounds.

The installation of new officers takes place after the trade show on Feb. 15. **Jeffrey Richards** is set to become 2019-20 president.

This year, trade show hours run 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Social events and seminars take place throughout the week on the club grounds. In addition, there are a number of events and activities happening adjacent to the trade show and in the general



Plush always abounds at the indoor exhibit booths during the IISF Super Trade Show and Extravaganza. AT/SUE NICHOLS

area that may be of interest to attendees. (See event schedule and roundup of other happenings in sidebars on this page.)

IISA has grown to over

4,500 members from the U.S. and several foreign countries. The trade show, which celebrated its 50th year in 2018, hosts more than 300 exhibits.

•gibtownshowmensclub.com



PHONE: 970-522-7515 -TOLL FREE: 800-634-6097

EMAIL: info@wisdomrides.com
jeff@wisdomrides.com



2019 IISF Trade Show Session/Event Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 3

Super Bowl Party and Trade Show Kickoff, club grounds.

Monday, Feb. 4

Big-Hearted Jerry's Memorial Golf Tournament

Tuesday, Feb. 5

11 a.m.-5 p.m. **TRADE SHOW OPEN**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. ServSafe Certification Class: Become certified in the ServSafe Program during the IISF Trade Show, located in upstairs boardroom, club grounds.

1-5 p.m. Additional seminars running back to back beginning at 1 p.m. First up is **Avery Wheelock (ALW Consulting)** discussing maintenance and safety inspections, followed by **Matt Cook (Matt's Carnival Warehouse)**, digital marketing, online ticketing and websites and Avery Wheelock again to wrap up the day with a carnival safety review. Located on club grounds.

5:30-7 p.m. Exhibitors party, club grounds.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

11 a.m.-5 p.m. **TRADE SHOW OPEN**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. ServSafe Certification Class, located in upstairs boardroom.

3 p.m. "What OABA is Doing for You," OABA's board members present key OABA initiatives, including H-2B Visa program, state ride regulations, OABA online education programs and more, location: club grounds.

Evening: Museum fundraiser and auction, club grounds.

Thursday, Feb. 7

11 a.m.-5 p.m. **TRADE SHOW OPEN**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. ServSafe Certification Class

7 p.m.-10 p.m. 3rd Annual OABA H-2B Advocacy Fundraiser, TopGolf, Tampa, Fla., Hosted by Deggeller Attractions

Evening: "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" Banquet and Ball, club grounds.

Friday, Feb. 8

10:30 a.m. Showmen's Shrine Annual Meeting, show grounds.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. **TRADE SHOW OPEN**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. ServSafe Certification Class, located in upstairs boardroom.

Evening: OABA's Annual Meeting & Chairman's Reception Sheraton Tampa East Hotel, Tampa, Fla.

IISF 51st annual Gibtown Extravaganza

February 5-8, 2019
Exhibitor Listing



50% Off Plush 1011-1012
5centride.Com 602
A.R.I. (Amusement Ride Imports) Outside Space
A.R.M. (Us)..... Outside Space
Action Lighting Inc..... 510-511
Action Rides Outside Space
Allied Specialty Ins. ~ An Xi Group Co. 403/503
American Changer Corp.....Non-Exhibiting Supplier
American Earth Anchors528
American Specialty Ins. & Risk Services 922
American Standard Trailer..... Outside Space
Amusement Entertainment Risk Insurance 425
Amusement Today.....**702**
Amusement Wraps 820-821
Audio Innovators, Inc..... 725-726
B J Toy Company, Inc..... 418-421/518-519
B. Barton & Sons - Ice Men..... 301
Backyard Canvas And Signs, Inc. 1015-1016
Battech Ent. Llc Outside Space
Bay Tek Entertainment 926 - 927
Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group 1010
Berk Concession Supply 410-412
Best Toy Mfg. Ltd..... 1018 - 1020
Big T Sports & Toys..... 809 - 816
Bob's Space Racers, Inc..... Outside Space
Bungee Supply Inc..... 520-521
Burton & Company, P.A.Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Caravan Softoys 314-316/318-325
Carnival Magazine.....Breezeway Space
Carolina Atm Services Llc 905-906
Cavallaro Concessions Outside Space
Cca/Custom Change Aprons 525-527
Chester Built Trailers Ltd. Outside Space
Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc. 610 - 616
Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc. 512
Circus And Traveling Shows Retirement.... Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Classic Embroidery Designs 718
Classic Toy Co., Inc..... 703 - 713
CMD Enterprises Llc 625-626
Cold To Go Trailers Outside Space
Computerized Accounting Technics 513
Concept 1900 Entertainment 819
Concession Mall.Com 822
Cool Glow Novelties / Fun Central..... 727-728
Cool-A-Zone 828
Dalton Kid Rides Rebuilders Inc..... Outside Space
Derby Industries 824
Dills Enterprises Llc DbA Uniglide Co. Outside Space
Dobco Enterprises Ltd Outside Space
Drew's Rv Techs, Llc 808
Eli Bridge Co. 415-416
Equipment Solutions International Outside Space
Fare Foods Corporation 818
Fiesta 914-916

Firestone Financial Llc..... 1128-1130
Flag Poles By Uncommon Usa 807
Flitz International Ltd. 928
Food Concession Signs..... 918-921
Forever Bunkhouses Outside Space
Frederiksen Industries, Inc..... Outside Space
Fred's Tents & CanopiesNon-Exhibiting Supplier
Fun & Fun Toys, Inc. 621 - 624
Funlight Amusements Sro Outside Space
Galaxy Amusement Sales Outside Space
Gautier Fabrication Inc..... Outside Space
Glowworks Imports, Inc. 1003 - 1005
Goffa International Corp..... 719-721
Gold Medal Products Co..... 422-424 / 522-524
Gosetto S.R.L..... 701
Greenwald Industries 1021
Gull Wing Industries, Inc. Outside Space
Haas & Wilkerson Insurance 618 - 620
Hayes Specialties Corp. 308-310
Hi Striker Co..... 827
IGPM Distribution Llc 426-428
Indiana Ticket Company 722-723
Ital International, Llc 305-306
JKJ Workforce Agency 830/930
K & K Insurance Group, Inc. 724
KMG International..... Outside Space
Knight Equipment Company Slab 'D'
Kolmax - Plus, S.R.O..... Outside Space
Lamberink Reuzenrad Bouw Bv Outside Space
Lifetime Products Group Inc. Outside Space
LJM & Associates Inc. 303
LKQ / Keystone Automotive..... 823
Luna-Park Sp. Z O.O. Outside Space
Magic Money Llc..... Outside Space
Matt's Web DesignBreezeway Space
McGowan Amusement Group ...Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Moneytree Atm..... 413
Moore Industrial HardwareNon-Exhibiting Supplier
National Prize And Toy 1118-1127
National Ticket CompanyNon-Exhibiting Supplier
OA Finance, Llc..... 414
On Site Signs Ohio 805-806
Owen Trailers Inc. Outside Space
Peek-A-Boo Toys..... 326-331
R. Humes Enterprises 311

Rapsure Concession Trailers Outside Space
Recreation By Design Outside Space
Red Bone Products, Inc. 1101
Red Bone Products, Inc. Outside Space
Rhode Island Novelty 404-409 / 504-509 / 603-609
Ride Parts Inc. 714-716
Rides-4-U, Inc..... Outside Space
Rocken Graphics Outside Space
Rocken Graphics 1116
Safe Strap Company Llc 907
Sartori Rides Srl..... 304
Schantz Manufacturing Inc..... Outside Space
Show Me Fabrication, Inc..... Outside Space
Showmen Supplies Inc..... Outside Space
Sippers By DesignNon-Exhibiting Supplier
Soda Parts Express Inc. 627
Space Craft Mfg., Inc. Outside Space
Specialty Insurance Ltd 312 - 313
Sterling Jewelers..... 1001-1002
Tent And Table.Com Outside Space
Tig Artistics, Llc..... Outside Space
TMFS Corporation.....Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Total Insight Screening Inc..... 909
Toy Factory, Llc 1022 - 1030
Trailex Aluminum Trailers Outside Space
Triangle Poster & Printing Co..... 630/730
Tribune Showprint..... 913
Urethane Associates Inc..... 908
Used Rides Europe Bv..... Outside Space
Used Rides.Com 1102 - 1104
Victor Products Inc.....Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Virtual Ticket Solutions 1006
Wadkins Expo Wheel Outside Space
Wapello Fabrications Co. 628
Waterloo Tent & Tarp Co., Inc. 803-804/903-904
Waymatic, Inc..... Outside Space
Whirleydrinkworks! 515-516
Wisdom Rides Of America Outside Space
Wizard Show Wraps 825-826
Worldride Service & Supply Inc. Outside Space
Zamperla Inc..... Outside Space



DIGITAL EDITION
App
now
available!



**Amusement
TODAY** Your Amusement
Industry
NEWS Leader

SUBSCRIBE
14 ISSUES: 1 YEAR \$50

Print subscribers also receive FREE Digital Edition
of each issue for viewing on computer, tablet or phone.

amusementtoday.com/subscribe • Amusement Today • P.O. Box 5427 • Arlington, Texas 76005-5427 • (817) 486-7228

►CIRCUS

Continued from page 1

has seen ongoing revitalization and the rise of a thriving arts community. Yet even in this reenergized cultural environment, Two Bit Circus, occupying a 50,000-square-foot former warehouse on a gritty street that seems miles from the nearest freeway, is a proud outlier — both pleasantly loopy and daringly cool. And confident enough to describe itself as a “micro-amusement park.”

An hour prior to the grand opening, its creators also exuded confidence.

“We’re inspired by the kind of entertainment that’s been effectively entertaining people for generations — carnival games, physical games, social games,” said Gradman, sharing a table with Bushnell and *Amusement Today* in a nondescript employee break room beneath the Two Bit Circus

corporate office. “We’re taking things that people find familiar and letting them play these games, but they look at them and they’re transformed. They’re familiar in a new way.”

A sharing of minds

The partnership behind Two Bit Circus formed more than a decade ago in the downtown arts district, in an enclave known as the **Brewery Artists Lofts**. Gradman was living there at the time, and a mutual friend introduced him to Bushnell during a monthly gathering called **MindshareLA**, where creatives discussed ideas and projects. They hit it off, and with both interested in pushing the boundaries of technology, they began collaborating.

The event “was almost like a rave for nerds,” recalled Bushnell, the son of **Atari** and **Chuck E. Cheese’s** FEC founder **Nolan Bushnell**. “It would pop up in different warehouses and there’d

Original and customized arcade games, and adult refreshments, are among the varied offerings at Two Bit Circus.
AT/DEAN LAMANNA

be different speakers on different topics from nanotech to biotech to somebody belly dancing, and then it would break for a party.”

Bushnell and Gradman took to making interactive art that really impressed the creative circle.

“MindShare was this wonderful Petri dish, and Eric and I challenged ourselves to make something new every month,” said Bushnell, who noted that many of their early projects — including a game called Button Wall — have found a home inside Two Bit Circus. “People liked it, so we kept making more. And all the sudden brands were calling, and **Microsoft** was like, ‘Hey, we saw that stuff you made. Could you do the entertainment for our E3 [Electronic Entertainment Expo] party?’ And we’re like, ‘Whoa. Really? Sure!’”

The duo was soon providing games, escape rooms and other digital diversions for parties thrown by **Amazon** and conferences held by **Intel**. Intel subsequently invited Bushnell and Gradman to create attractions using the company’s latest chips and equipment.

“We started to build custom experiential activations either using new technology like Intel’s or **Samsung’s** Gear VR for IP — **Nickelodeon**, **Cartoon Network**, **Warner Bros.** — and helping them launch new movies and TV shows,” said Bushnell, adding that he and Gradman also took their work to major media / technology and pop culture conferences such as **South by Southwest** and **Comic-Con**. “We were entertainers making stuff that you could put the physical public through, much like amusements.”

The concept for Two Bit Circus, which is free to enter and pay-and-play-as-you-go, grew out of what had become for Bushnell and Gradman a kind of traveling show.

“The major goal for us was to build a platform, an environment so that others like us — other nerds, content creators — will have a home for their stuff,” Bushnell said. “We built all these things we dragged to events, but at one point, the event is over — and where does that stuff go? We really wanted a place where it could live in an ongoing way.”

On with the show

While Bushnell serves as CEO of the enterprise, Gradman is its self-described “mad inventor.”



“When we first started working together, we were both just experimenting with technologies and figuring out what it meant to run a business,” said Gradman, a former circus juggler who began working on a computer at age three and was programming by age five. “Over time, I think our roles have complemented each other well.”

Gradman added that he hasn’t had a single miserable day working with Bushnell. “I love brainstorming with this guy. Ideas in this park come from us hanging out, drinking a beer and saying, ‘Hey, you know what would be fun?’ And we just build it.”

Giving Gradman and Bushnell room to create while also bringing national-level corporate experience to Two Bit Circus is its head of parks, **Kim Schaefer**. The former **Great Wolf Resorts** CEO has helped balance the concept’s family and adult appeal at its flagship site and is spearheading its expansion to other locations, as well as developing technology partnerships (**HTC Vive** is one).

“This project is amazing, and it’s so needed because it’s not just entertainment — it’s really that social opportunity to get people together,” Schaefer told *AT*. “We’ve been talking with folks around the country [about the concept]. It’s an idea that really does work everywhere, and that is just so exciting for us.”

With its combination of hands-on activities, edutainment value, and food and beverage offerings, Two Bit Circus is available for student group visits, event rentals and team-building sessions.

Said Schaefer: “The nice thing about having our own platform, and having the software content that’s available today, is that during the day Two Bit Circus can host families or corporate groups. In the evening, we be a little bit edgier for the adults. We like the idea that we can play to many different people based on a software change.”

Nowhere within Two Bit Circus is this more evident than with its biggest attraction: **Club 01**. The 100-seat interactive game show theater allows everyone in the audience to participate in both the game and the show.

“I am particularly excited about Club 01,” said Gradman. “There’s a host running the show and there are touchscreens at every table. Sometimes you’ll be dragged up on stage to make a fool of yourself, but even if you’re not, you’re going to be using that touchscreen to be part of the action. So whether it’s a trivia show, a puzzle-solving competition or even a wine-tasting experience, there’s innumerable formats we can run.”

From its story rooms and private, electronics-stuffed cabanas to its **Hologate** VR arena and midway games with whizbang extras, Two Bit Circus merges engineering with out-of-home entertainment to promote engagement over theming.

“Many theme parks will sort of pre-program their experience from start to finish,” Gradman said. “We’re trying to make this feel more like an open book. We’re trying to give our guests a little more agency and respect to define their own path through this place — and, in some sense, help us write it.”

•twobitcircus.com

BuildMeAShirt.com
BUILD A CUSTOM
POLO SHIRT ONLINE!
www.BuildMeAShirt.com

AS LOW AS **\$7.99***

CHESTNUT™
IDENTITY APPAREL, INC.

AMUSEMENT LINE

www.amusementline.com | sales@chestnutid.com
800-336-8977

KMG Presents
THE ALL-NEW SURF RIDE

SPIN!

SOAR!

TRAILER MOUNTED!

WIPE OUT

FORCE

DROP!

See it in action
in Gibtown!

SPECTACULAR
LED PACKAGES

RIDES 4U
Supplying Amusements New to Used

221 EVANS WAY, SUITE E • SOMERVILLE, N.J. 08876
(908) 526-8009 • WWW.RIDES4U.COM

PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Adventureland announces Maurer Rides spinning coaster — page 12 / Fairground gallery — page 15

Dark ride rethemed and reimagined

Pirates of the Deep Sea attraction opens at Six Flags Fiesta Texas

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — As Auld Lang Syne blared from the speakers and fireworks crackled in the sky, **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** debuted the year's first new ride at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Pirates of the Deep Sea is a completely reimagined version of a **Sally Corp.** dark ride installed at the park in 2002. Originally built as Scooby-Doo Ghostbusters, the popular dark ride resonated with families, particularly those with young children. Over the past decade, the San Antonio theme park eventually became the sole Six Flags property to use the cartoon IP, and it made logical business sense to let go of the licensing at the close of the 2016 season.

This provided Fiesta Texas a valuable opportunity. Determined not to just shutter an attraction, park management had grander plans. Indoor attractions in the Texas climate are of high importance, and the park now had a clean slate from which to work. Focus groups of park guests indicated the theme of pirates was the way to go.

Removing all prior IP elements from the dark ride, an entirely new overlay involving new sets, animatronics and an upgraded sound system immerse guests into the role of buccaneers trying to outsmart plundering pirates trying to hornswoggle stolen bounty.

"This new, interactive ride is packed with so many amazing special effects that guests will really feel they are caught in the middle of a raging pirate battle," said Park President **Jeffrey Siebert**.

The vehicles are now completely rethemed. Guests



Rethemed vehicles and new signage (left) now reflect the **Pirates of the Deep Sea** storyline.

COURTESY SIX FLAGS; AT/TIM BALDWIN

ride of 2019.

Six Flags had worked with **Magic in the Sky** before on fireworks shows and haunted attractions and turned to them for the thematic makeover. This was the company's first foray into retheming dark rides.

"We're a theme park services company," said **Jacob Dell**, president. "This [project] has taken an existing ride and turned it into something totally new. We created or rehabbed all the scenery inside the ride. We also built the entire queue line experience. I think Fiesta Texas is moving toward where the experience is not just getting on the ride but building the environment. It's more of a world-class experience. I think Fiesta Texas is moving forward with that. The queue isn't just a place to wait."

The story begins outside of the attraction as riders gaze over

murals of treasure maps and the journey on which they are about to embark. Once inside, longtime park fans will notice an immediate reworking of the station as pathways now wind through a village, past waterfalls and an encounter with a new animatronic that helps set the stage.

"We work with **Creative**

Engineering out of Orlando," said Dell. "They rehab and update animatronics into completely new characters. It's very realistic. It just helps bring this new attraction to a broader audience. It's a little darker and has a spooky feel to it, but it is still family friendly. I think it speaks to the audience that Six Flags is wanting to draw."

Throughout the ride, swashbucklers travel through 18 different zones featuring new three-dimensional sets. Dramatic audio broadcast from a total of 39 speakers follows the individual galleons. In one scene cannon fire is sure to make passengers jump. The Fiesta Texas team has added three sets of bump doors to help separate certain scenes. Siebert commented to park fans at a preview that he is a big advocate of the old-school nature of bump doors and was excited to have them added.

As a way to provide value, special previews were given to membership and passholders Jan. 1-6. The grand opening of **Pirates of the Deep Sea** took place on Jan. 12 as the park entered its year-round weekend operation for the first time.



New scenes and characters give the former ride a spookier tone. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

IRG
Intermark Ride Group

- Gosetto
- Moser Rides
- RES-WillTec
- Used Rides
- Wattman Trains

www.intermarkridegroup.com
TEL 615.370.9625



Gosetto Dark Ride



Moser Giant Wheel 55 Mt



RES-WillTec Flume



"EVERY SECOND IS A THRILL!"

***"THE RIDE WILL TAKE YOU
HEAD-OVER-HEELS!"***

***"THE BLOCKBUSTER HIT
OF THE SUMMER!"***



LARSON INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
NEW LOOPING ATTRACTIONS AT VALLEY FAIR & SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA
PO. Box 638 • PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072 • (806) 293-1353
LARSONINTL.COM

New Maurer Rides coaster adds spin to Iowa's Adventureland

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ALTOONA, Iowa — Three years after its successful debut of *Monster*, a multi-inversion **Gerstlauer** Euro-Fighter coaster, **Adventureland Resort** is set to add a spinning coaster from **Maurer Rides** this summer.

"With [*Monster*] we went all out — super crazy," said **Molly Vincent**, park marketing director. "Last year we put in a play area, which was the opposite end of the extreme, something for little guests. So, we wanted to put in something a little more moderate."

Named *Phoenix*, the new coaster places four riders per spinning vehicle in back-to-back pairs. Throughout the course, cars navigate hairpin turns, curving drops and tight corners. Depending upon the riders' weight distribution, a vehicle's spin is dictated by the forces in play and never delivers the same experience twice.

The Adventureland model will stand 51 feet tall and reach a top speed of 40 mph. It will fill the space once occupied until 1999 by the *Super Screamer*, a *Galaxi* coaster model manufactured by S.D.C., and then by a flat ride that

was retired two years ago.

"We called the new ride *Phoenix*, as it was sort of rising from the ashes of our old *Super Screamer*," Vincent said. "We kind of joke that it is like our old *Tea Cups* ride and *Super Screamer* had a baby. It's just another level of craziness, and it's going to be very thrilling for a wider age group."

"The spinning coaster is very family friendly and not too high," said **Steve Boney**, business development executive for Maurer, which has installed numerous spinning coasters worldwide. "It hits that tweener market. There aren't a lot of coasters that fit that bill. You watch the kids go back round and round on it because every ride is different. It's really an attractive ride."

Phoenix will sport some custom details, including an iconic entrance statue. Park management is looking to tie new food and retail outlets into the theming, as the coaster sits somewhat back from the main midway. The total investment: \$6 million.

Adventureland's sixth roller coaster, the ride is projected to open in June.

•adventurelandresort.com



Phoenix, a Maurer Rides spinning coaster similar to the one shown here, is headed for Iowa's Adventureland Resort this season. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Morey's Piers to roll out tramcar-themed coaster from Zierer

Family ride replaces *Flitzer*, a longtime boardwalk favorite

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

WILDWOOD, N.J. — Causing a bit of a shakeup at **Morey's Piers**, the installation of a new roller coaster is initiating change. Called *Runaway Tram*, the coaster will not only take the footprint of the *Flitzer* coaster that was retired last season but will be three times the size.

Themed after the famous Wildwood Sightseer Tramcar, which has been a staple of the Wildwood Boardwalk since 1949, the family coaster will reach a broad audience.

"The Wildwood tram is leftover from the World's Fair. It has become symbolic of the fun and tacky side of Wildwood. It is iconic," said **Jack Morey**, second generation partner.

Supplied by **Zierer** of Germany, the ride is a Force 280 model, the only other one of its type being in Denmark. Track length is 922 feet long. Morey reported that the ride is planned to be elevated so that guests can walk under most of the ride.

Attraction Design Company **Jack Rouse Associates** were brought in to aid with the theming on the train and station. Not only is the train themed to



the famous tram, JRA has also worked with Morey's Piers to develop a promotional vehicle to drive through populated areas. As *Amusement Today* goes to press, current plans for the promotional car are for theming to be incorporated into a Mini Cooper.

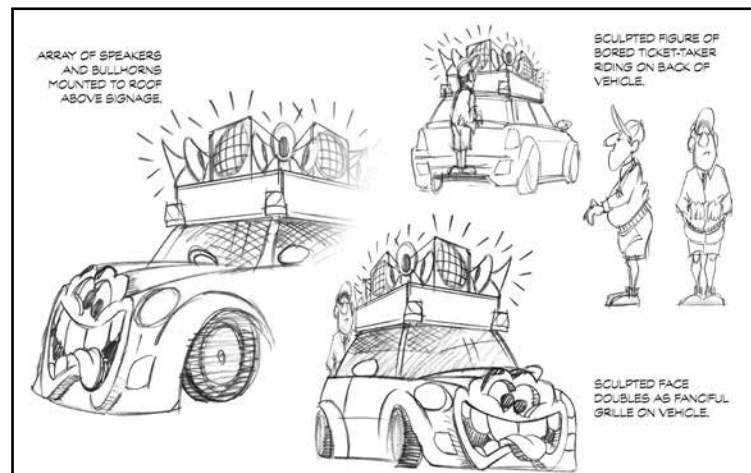
Firmly implanted on visitor's brains when visiting Wildwood is the legendary recorded message: "Watch the tramcar, please!" The phrase is heard repeatedly as the trackless train moves along the two miles of boardwalk, alerting beachgoers to move safely out of the way.

AT asked what factors led to Morey's Piers working with Zierer. Morey said,

The seventh roller coaster for Morey's Piers, *Runaway Tram* features theming inspired by the iconic Wildwood Sightseer tramcars (above), providing boardwalk transportation since 1949. Early conceptual art (right) shows a promotional vehicle for the new ride.

COURTESY CRAIG TERRY; JACK ROUSE ASSOCIATES

"We've worked with Zierer before, most recently with the *Wave Swinger*. We decided late in the season we needed to retire the *Flitzer*. That didn't leave us the planning time we normally would have liked when investing \$4 million in a roller coaster. [Members of our team] went off on a three-day, six-park 16-roller coaster trip to Scandinavia. The one that we thought was almost custom-made for us — which, of course, it wasn't — was the one by Zierer. It's a lot of money for us, and it's pretty scary to make a decision that fast. Usually there can be a two-to-three year wait for coasters. We were shocked and pleased when Zierer said they would squeeze us in. They were even able to mirror-image the engineering."



The installation causes Morey's Piers to relocate seven additional rides. "It's quite the jigsaw puzzle," said Morey. "[The *Flitzer*] was technically up to speed, but physically it was old," said Morey of the popular retired coaster. "Aside from reaching the end of its service life, the capacity was horrible. Regulations had changed to where cars could not be released as often. One of the things we like about Morey's is that you don't have to wait for hours to ride. When you start having a long wait, it's too much for our culture."

"We are also working on a fun and catchy rap jingle to promote *Runaway Tram*," said Warner. "We hired Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, and producer Picasso to record the jingle."

When installed, Morey's Piers will have 83 dry rides and 22 water attractions.

"We strive to have experiences the whole family can have together," said Warner. "That's across everything — rides, water park, food and games. Smaller kids who aren't able to ride the bigger coasters can still have that coaster experience."

"When we rode the coaster in Denmark, we noticed two things: the smallness of the children and the bigness of the adults. And both were giggling," said Morey. "It's one thing to have a ride designed to thrill children and parents can fit in it. It's another thing when you can get both of them laughing together. That's not easy to do."

•moreyspiers.com



WE BUILD



CAREERS



CHARACTER



VALUE



QUALITY



Dreams

208-772-8181 — WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM

THE I-BOX (TM) TRACK IS COVERED BY US PATENTS 8,590,455 AND 9,564,527 AND BY FOREIGN PATENTS. TOPPER TRACKS AND FOREIGN PATENTS PENDING.

BUILDING FUN

CHANCE
RIDES®

SINCE 1961



GO-
GREEN
CF HUNTINGTON TRAIN

COASTERS

RIDES

PEOPLE MOVERS

SALES@CHANCERIDES.COM • 316.945.6555 • CHANCERIDES.COM

New Parts Store PARTS.CHANCERIDES.COM

FAIRGROUNDS GALLERY***The Great Frederick Fair***

Promoting agriculture and related education, The Great Frederick Fair welcomes some 250,000 visitors to its grounds in Frederick, Md., annually. During its Sept. 14-22, 2018, run, the event had more than 18,000 exhibits presented by 4-H and FFA youth, volunteers, sponsors, employees and concessionaires. Reithoffer Shows, Orange Unit, operated 38 rides, with a Pinfari coaster, Rampage, as its new attraction; Reithoffer has held the ride midway contract since 1994. The crew included (from left) Mike Goodrich, head electrician; Suzi Reithoffer Blake, office manager; Pat Reithoffer IV, assistant supervisor; and Craig Nelson, concessions manager. The fair returns Sept. 13-21.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW; COURTESY THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR (MIDWAY AT NIGHT)

Greene Dreher Sterling (GDS) Fair

The Greene Dreher Sterling (GDS) Fair in Newfoundland, Pa., was begun in 1917 by a school teacher to showcase students' handiwork. The goal was to promote the agricultural lifestyle and educate the surrounding community about farm life and skills for everyday living.

Today, there's a bustling midway, entertainment and food in addition to livestock exhibits. Shown during the event's Aug. 24-Sept. 2, 2018, run, Carroll Krautter has been volunteering at the GDS Fair for over 74 years; he served as its president in 1974 and 1990. Skelly's Amusements, Inc., has been the midway operator for 35 years; last summer's crew included Tanya Gesnaker, general manager; Tom O'Connor, co-owner; Will Carr, general manager; Rick Marchione, food and concession manager; and Frank Schwartz, manager, rides. This year's dates are Aug. 23-Sept. 1.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

***Wyoming County Community Fair***

Run by 900 volunteers and attended by more than 60,000 people each year, the Wyoming County Community Fair in Meshoppen, Pa., is an annual agricultural celebration featuring contests, competitive exhibits, food, entertainment and, of course, a carnival midway. Houghton Enterprises had 18 rides at the Aug. 29-Sept. 3, 2018, event, with the Teacups and Wipeout attractions being new at the location. Houghton family members keeping things running included (from left) Jason Houghton, Jr., manager; Jason Houghton, vice president; Jim Houghton, president and Jimmy Houghton, vice president. The 2019 fair takes place Aug. 28-Sept. 2, with Houghton returning as midway provider. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

**Major, Family and Spectacular Rides**

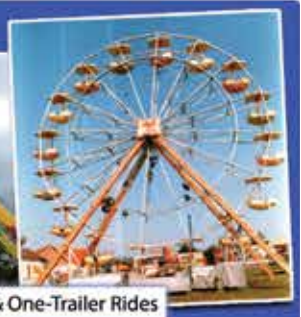
Bertazzon: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides



Check out the hundreds of new and used rides at www.italintl.com



Technical Park: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides



Ital International LLC | Phone: 615-383-3986 | Fax: 615-383-9244 | E-Mail: sales@italintl.com

Carnival and Showmen's Reception, IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018

Attending the sold-out annual social and networking mixer in Orlando on Nov. 14 were (from left) Larry Yaffe and Tony Costanza, ESY Financial; Nathan Janousek, Fun Biz Concessions, Inc.; Mary Chris Smith, Allied Insurance (the event's sponsor); and Patrick Sheridan, Alamo Amusements, Inc. ALL PHOTOS: AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Representing Reithoffer Shows, Inc., were Rick, Victoria and Ricky Reithoffer.



Bob Johnson (at left), outgoing president of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA), was honored during the mixer. Shown with him are Jean Clair, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; Jay Strates, OABA president and Strates Shows; and Johnson's longtime friend John Tawgin, Vivaaquatics.



Gathering for social time were (from left) Andy and Lorelei Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; Joe Clair, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; John Hanschen, Thomas Carnival; Sam Johnston, Funderland Inc.; Michael Wood, Biggest Wheel, LLC; and Mary Chris Smith, Allied Insurance.

Reconnecting at the event were (from left) E.J. Dean, Fiesta Shows; Andrew Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; and Tom Gaylin, Rosedale Attractions and Shows.



Enjoying the camaraderie were (from left) Patty Sullivan, Eli Bridge; Jim Drew, Drew Expositions; Allan and Angie Wadsley, Gull Wing Industries, Inc; and Jimmy Drew, Drew Expositions.



INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT SHOWMEN'S MUSEUM

Preserving The Colorful History of Traveling Shows In America

6938 RIVERVIEW DRIVE * RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA 33578

Capital Campaign Building Fund

We are thrilled to be at the point that we need to expand the International Independent Showmen's Museum. We are rolling out our capital campaign to begin building the perfect structure to display wagons, generators, trailers, rides, etc. to preserve our rich and colorful history. As you may know these treasures have been housed outside and susceptible to the destructive rain, sun and harsh Florida weather. The building will keep the historical equipment protected and let us add future pieces as they become available. Visitors to the museum will be able to view these carnival artifacts from the railroad and truck shows of the past.

All the money raised will go strictly towards this project.

The capital campaign has officially begun.

Contact: Doc Rivera at 813 765-7031 or by Email: ShowmensHistory@gmail.com

Please be generous, it's YOUR history and your museum.



Some of the future restoration projects desperately awaiting a new home.
Together we can preserve our history!

INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT SHOWMEN'S MUSEUM

Phone: (813) 671-3503 * 6938 Riverview Drive * Riverview, Florida 33578

Website: www.ShowmensHistory.org * Email: ShowmensHistory@Gmail.com



Sky Hawk

COMING SOON TO A NIGHT SKY NEAR YOU

1506 Fernwood Road · Wintersville, OH 43953 · 740.264.6599



MIDWAY MARKET PLACE

Whatever your Industry...



INDIANA TICKET COMPANY
Design / Quality / Security

Manufacturers of Quality Tickets For over 70 years

1-800-428-8640

- Redemption Tickets
- Admission Tickets
- Direct Thermal Tickets
- Reserved Seating
- Wristbands
- Credentials

www.muncienovelty.com
info@muncienovelty.com

MUNCIE NOVELTY INC. COMPANY

e've got your Ticket.

Gull Wing Industries

WE'VE GOT THE POWER!!

Gull Wing provides carnivals, fairs, and festivals with the highest caliber portable electrical solutions.



Gull Wing Toll Free: 800-838-1482
www.gull-wing.com

WAPELLO is the One!

Built in the USA to Your Needs!



Let Wapello high-performance products go to work for you. Give us a call or write today. Custom sizes, shapes and colors.

Wapello Fabrications Company
201 North Second Street • Wapello, IA 52653
(319) 523-8371 • wafabco@louisacomm.net



ELED "THE ORIGINAL STARLITE MAKER"



Tired of LED lamps blowing faster than incandescent bulbs?

- 22 SMD LED T5.5/E14 for highest brightness/best value for customer.
- Fits all the fixtures available on the market.
- Totally sealed design with UL listed resin.
- Outperforms all competitors on lifespan.
- UPS delivery from Italy 2-5 working days.
- Direct selling to ride manufacturers.
- T 5.5: 24V - 60V - 230V / T 3: 24V - 60V - 120V

PROBLY MADE IN ITALY

LL1422120CLS
120V T 5.5

E-COMMERCE: www.ecoelettrocomponenti.com

Via Melapini, 12 - 42124 Reggio Emilia - Italy
Tel: +39 0522 513003 - Fax: +39 0522 511082
www.ecoelettrocomponenti.com - info@ecoelettrocomponenti.com

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.



MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Ray Cammack Shows, Inc., will debut a major new ride at the **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo** later this month. Titan, the Ride, is a 55-meter (160-foot-tall) pendulum-style **Fabbri Group** Booster Max. The Laveen, Ariz., show is promoting Titan as an "extreme spectacular class" ride billed as the tallest portable thrill ride in the U.S. Transportation is accomplished via three tractor-trailer trucks carrying a combined 200,000 pounds. The attraction flips riders over 17 stories in the air at 60 mph, pulling 4Gs in the process.

Starting this year, students who show farm animals at California fairs need certification in food safety, animal care and ethics — or they will not be able to participate. This will help all 4H and FFA students who raise animals as a project to be even better prepared.

"Fairs are experiencing, with much more frequency, society questioning the relevance and value of our animal programs," said **Jay Carlson**, agricultural programs manager for the Fairs and Exhibition Branch, to *The Fresno Bee*. "We should all know that less than two percent of the population is actively involved in the production of agriculture. This fact makes fairs more important than ever concerning agriculture education."

During **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018** in Orlando in November, **A.R.M. (USA), Inc.**, sold its second Frenzy, a high-intensity thrill ride, to **Robbie Hauser** of Vancouver-based **West Coast Shows**.

"We planted a lot of seeds [with potential customers], which is typical with this show," said ARM's **Eric Bates**.

Frenzy debuted on Bates's own **Bates Brothers Amusement Co.** carnival route. "I prototype them on my own show for a season or two, debug them a little bit, make them work good, and that's when we put them out and hopefully sell a few of them," he said. Bates added that there's been interest in the ride from outside the U.S., including Mexico, Brazil and England.

Numerous awards were presented during the annual **International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)** convention in San Antonio, Texas, in November.

The IAFE Hall of Fame Award, the association's highest honor, was presented to **Marlene Jolliffe, State Fair of Virginia** in Doswell. **Mallory**

Hines of the **San Antonio Livestock Exposition** was awarded the Young Professionals Initiative Rising Star Award. The **IAFE Heritage Awards** were presented to five deserving individuals, including **Terry Atchison, Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days** in Walla Walla, Wash.; **Allen Heine, Cedar County Fair** in Hartington, Neb.; **Edsel Matthews, Ozark Empire Fair**, Springfield, Mo.; **Dr. Sally Nolt** of the **Elizabethtown Fair** in Elizabethtown, Pa.; and **Sharon Wessel, Hennepin County Fair**, Hamel, Minn.

IAFE's State and Provincial Associations of Fairs Executive of the Year Award was presented to **Steven Patterson**, executive director of the **Indiana Association of Fairs**. Also, the **Institute of Fair Management** recognized its 10th class with the largest number of graduates ever: 37.

As of last month, Illinois law now requires carnival companies to conduct criminal background checks of all employees. The new law increases fines for amusement park companies that fail to check the criminal history of new hires.

Previously, only ride operators had to undergo background checks.

The **State Fair of Texas** recently received approval to remain in Fair Park through 2038. However, the decision is not without controversy. Some council members felt the 20-year contract was being rushed through, as they were given what they considered a short time to review it.

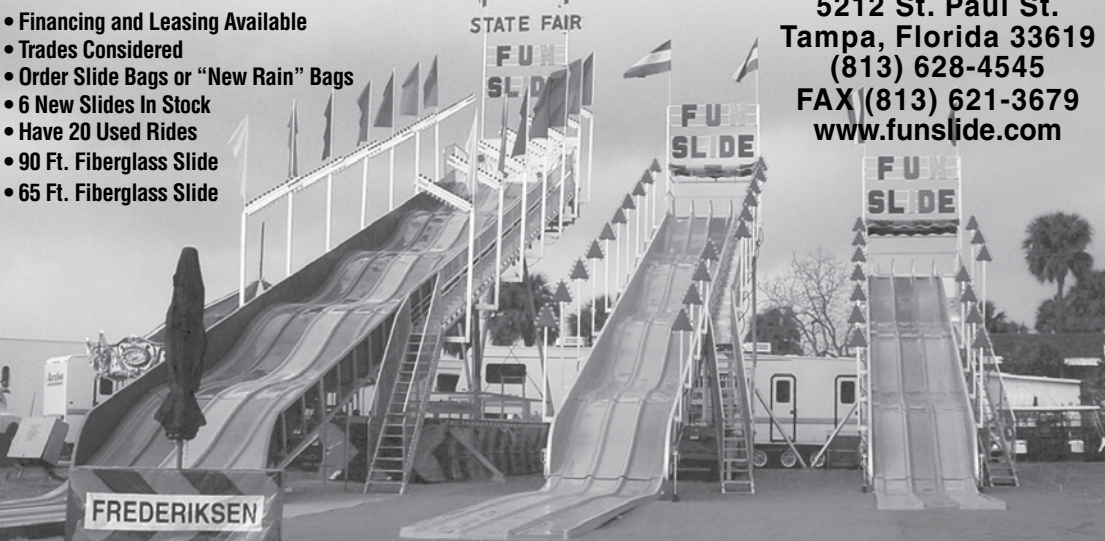
The approval was seen as a signature accomplishment for out-going Dallas mayor **Mike Rawlings**. "Since I became mayor, the one thing I wanted to do was get Fair Park in a great place," he said in a Fox 4 News interview, indicating that there were two parts to that goal. "One is getting **Fair Park First** to manage the park and second was to work with State Fair to make sure they're going to be good partners. Putting them on that footing and extending that contract is a huge strategic issue for the city."

Councilman **Philip Kingston** wanted a contract that required more of the State Fair. "We're doing nothing to preserve the historic buildings and nothing to get rid of the ring of concrete around the park that serves as a moat to keep out the people of South Dallas," Kingston said in the same interview.

Fair Park First began overseeing Fair Park's operations on the first of this year.

"The #1 Leading Slide Manufacturer in America"
"World's Largest 5 Lane, One Trailer Slide - 108 Ft."

- Financing and Leasing Available
- Trades Considered
- Order Slide Bags or "New Rain" Bags
- 6 New Slides In Stock
- Have 20 Used Rides
- 90 Ft. Fiberglass Slide
- 65 Ft. Fiberglass Slide



FREDERIKSEN INDUSTRIES, INC.
5212 St. Paul St.
Tampa, Florida 33619
(813) 628-4545
FAX (813) 621-3679
www.funslide.com

We continue to serve the
Amusement Entertainment Business Community!

AERIA
AMUSEMENT ENTERTAINMENT RISK INSURANCE ASSOCIATES

JKJ | JOHNSON
KENDALL
JOHNSON

amusemententertainmentrisk.com

Gene Berger 215.579.6487
Rick D'Aprile 215.579.6488



WATER PARKS & RECREATION

► New Carnival Panorama cruise ship to feature first Sky Zone indoor trampoline park at sea — page 22

Great Wolf Resorts opens \$150M 'flagship lodge' in Georgia

Company partners with state, local leaders to realize huge project

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

LAGRANGE, Ga. — The highly anticipated **Great Wolf Lodge Georgia** opened its doors just an hour's drive southwest of Atlanta last summer. It brings to the Peach State the incredible hospitality, kid-friendly activities and enormous indoor water park that guests associate with the **Great Wolf Resorts** brand.

The resort is a new prototype or "flagship resort" for the chain, combining all the bells and whistles of previous resorts and tossing in a few extras under one gigantic roof. The company has indicated that this new property will set the standard for future lodge developments.

Great Wolf Lodge Georgia covers nearly 11.5 acres and includes a four-story hotel with 456 themed suites, a conference center and a cavernous, 35,000-square-foot lobby / retail area. The indoor water park occupies more than 93,000 square feet, while another 40,000 square feet of space is dedicated to a dry play area. There are also multiple dining options, yoga for kids and bedtime pajama activities.



Thrillseekers get a brief glimpse of the outside world as they fly through the Flying Saucer 45. COURTESY PROSLIDE

Open year-round, the lodge has also debuted an exclusive, adult-only oasis adjacent to the outdoor pool, complete with a private hot tub for parents to enjoy.

The resort represents a collaboration between Great Wolf, the state of Georgia and the City of LaGrange. "We are excited that Great Wolf Lodge chose LaGrange to build their newest resort," said Gov. **Nathan Deal**. "Creating more than 600 jobs and investing more than \$150 million, the economic impact from the Great Wolf Lodge Georgia operation will be felt immediately, and we anticipate additional investment

in the region as operations ramp up. This project is a result of strong partnership between local and state leaders that will benefit the local community."

ProSlide of Canada supplied all of the water attractions, including two one-of-kind waterslides it developed specifically for this property.

Triple Thunder combines a Tornado 24 with a Flying Saucer 45. This is the first Flying Saucer slide designed to utilize four-passenger cloverleaf rafts; previous saucers utilized three- or four-person inline rafts.

The slide starts by plummeting guests down a steep



drop and into a funnel, where they experience sensations of weightlessness as the raft sloshes up-and-down the funnel walls. Upon exiting the funnel, the raft speeds toward two saucers — hurtling along the bank of the first before swirling 180 degrees in one direction and then 180 degrees in the opposite direction, as if negotiating a giant slalom course.

The entire slide is enclosed, including the saucer sections, and one of the saucers features windows that provide brief glimpses of the outside world and admit natural light. The entire attraction consists of alternating bands of solid red and translucent yellow fiberglass, creating an almost hypnotic effect for riders as they traverse the slide.

Rapid Racer, a ProSlide Dueling Pipeline, is a two-person tube racing waterslide that pits pairs of riders against each other. The unique slide combines individual tube slides that incorporate single

tube sections with open racing lanes where riders can see and hear their competition on the other side of a low separator wall. The slide features three rally points where guests can see their competition as both careen through twists and turns before the splash-pool finale, at which point the winner is determined.

River Canyon Run, which shares a tower, splash pool and raft lift system with **Triple Thunder**, is an enclosed ProSlide Mammoth River that the whole family can enjoy on circular, four-person rafts.

Other Great Wolf Lodge water park favorites are prominent here, including the **Fort Mackenzie** multilevel tree house water fort with suspension bridges, treetop slides, swinging cargo nets and spray stations. The obligatory tipping bucket dumps one thousand gallons of water onto the fort every four minutes.



The cavernous lobby gives a great first impression to guests checking in to the lodge. COURTESY GREAT WOLF LODGE

► See **GREAT WOLF**, page 22

Seashore Holiday Park in Great Yarmouth, Great Britain, is adding a water park to its offerings. **The Shore Water Park** is a multimillion pound facility that will include a slide tower, aqua play area with tipping buckets, toddlers pool and a four-foot-deep lap pool. Expansion will also include a seaside-inspired restaurant, The Coast House. Seashore Holiday Park is one of 37 properties owned by **Haven**, the holiday park division of **Bourne Leisure Ltd.** If the expansion proves successful, Haven expects to add water parks to many of its other properties.

The abandoned **Water Wonderland** water park in Odessa, Texas, could finally be brought back to life. Built in 1980 and closed in 2003, the water park has slowly deteriorated, vandals have damaged the property and graffiti covers most of the old attractions. The property was sold in August 2018 to **Fily Lozoya Sr.**, the owner of **G.F. Elite Real Estate Holdings**. **Jerry Garcia**, vice president of **Lozoya Construction** hopes to have the park re-opened by 2020. The owners claim that despite the dilapidated appearance, many of the buildings are structurally sound, the wave pool is still usable and one of the large slides has already been refurbished. Garcia plans to bring the buildings up to code and to refurbish a second big slide, but most of the remaining attractions will be or have already been demolished. As for new attractions, Garcia said the company is still doing research and hasn't yet decided what to add to the park. He attended both the WWA and IAAPA attractions expos and has been meeting with vendors and gathering ideas.

During this past holiday season, **Walt Disney World** offered a limited-time hideaway for adults at



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert

jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Typhoon Lagoon water park. Adult Cove was set up at Hammerhead Fred's Bar for those 18 and older. During that time, the bar featured seasonal food offerings, speciality drinks, live music and a TV at the bar. The bar resumed normal operation on the first of the year. There has been no word as to whether this will become an annual practice or perhaps even something more permanent. Disney cruise ships have offered Quiet Cove Pool, an adult-only area, for several years.

Stand Rock Resort, an indoor/outdoor water park and hotel resort in Grapevine, Texas, has taken another step forward in its goal of opening by 2021. The city of Grapevine has approved variances to the current zoning allowing the developer to exceed height restrictions and to offer entertainment options such as miniature bowling, outdoor dining and a ropes course. The 1,020-room resort has been in the works for multiple years having been initially approved for development in 2016. The property intends to target a different demographic than **Great Wolf Lodge** and the **Gaylord Texan**, two existing water park resorts in Grapevine. Stand Rock resorts typically attract a slightly older group of children with water park rides that are geared for teens and pre-teens. The city council hopes the new resort will help broaden Grapevine's appeal with both the drive-in market as well as convention attendees and travelers from across the nation and even international travelers. The city of Grapevine borders **Dal-**

las-Fort Worth International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world.

The \$330 million Stand Rock Resort will include 190,000 square feet of entertainment space, including indoor and outdoor water parks, an arcade, mini-golf, laser tag, rock climbing, a spa, multiple dining outlets and meeting spaces. The resort's second phase, scheduled to open in 2022 will add 400 rooms to the hotel and include 200 condominium units.

Great Wolf Resorts is looking to expand into the mid-Atlantic region and the city of Perryville, Md., seems to have the best potential for the establishment of a new pack. Located at the northern end of Chesapeake Bay, Perryville is equidistant from the major population areas of Baltimore and Philadelphia. Although Great Wolf has yet to confirm the project, plenty of details have been released. The \$200 million lodge would be located on a 44-acre site adjacent to the Hollywood Casino Perryville in an entertainment district known as the Chesapeake Overlook. The lodge would include a 500-room hotel with themed rooms and include the usual Great Wolf amenities such as the requisite indoor and outdoor water park, ropes course, climbing wall, restaurants, shops and a conference center.

On Jan. 8, **Aquatica Orlando** became the first water park to be designated as a Certified Autism Center (CAC) by the **International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards**. The certification follows the completion of a staff-wide autism sensitivity and awareness training program as well as an onsite review of the park property and guest experience.

Every smile starts with one BIG Idea....

- MARKETING
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- PRESS RELEASES
- TV PRODUCTION
- RADIO PRODUCTION
- PROMOTIONS
- PRINTING

WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.
The Big Idea People!
 513.737.9012 • www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com

Carnival Panorama's fun to include Sky Zone trampoline park

New California-based ship will feature first such attraction at sea

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LONG BEACH, Calif. — When **Carnival Cruise Line's** latest luxury ship, the **Carnival Panorama**, launches from the Port of Long Beach later this year, it will offer passengers some bounce along with the natural motion of the ocean.

The under-construction vessel, part of Carnival's service-expansion push on the West Coast, will include among its many activities an indoor trampoline and challenge park from Los Angeles-based **Sky Zone**. The attraction is billed as the first of its type at sea.

The park, located in the same two-deck high, 3,000-square-foot-plus space occupied by an IMAX Theatre on the **Carnival Horizon** and **Carnival Vista** ships, features dodgeball and basketball as well as basic trampoline action. Adjacent to the 12-lane trampoline court will be a challenge zone with a climbing wall, a balance / jousting beam, a tug-of-war rope and other challenges.

Special daytime sessions will allow toddlers to bounce about and play with oversized soft blocks, while at night older participants can participate in blacklight "glow parties" that enhance the facility's atmosphere.

"Our first Sky Zone at sea will provide guests of all ages an opportunity to experience exciting new ways to play aboard the amazing new Carnival Panorama," said **Jeff Platt**, president



Sky Zone, an indoor trampoline park, will bring a variety of challenge activities and bounce-based recreation to the Carnival Panorama when the new ship debuts in Long Beach in December. COURTESY CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE



of Sky Zone, which operates more than 200 parks in North America and numerous countries worldwide — including Australia, India, Mexico, Colombia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Norway and the U.K.

Among other Carnival Panorama attractions are SkyRide, an elevated, track-based biking activity; WaterWorks water park; and SportSquare, an open-air recreation area. The ship's Havana section contains tropics-inspired staterooms and its own Cuban-themed bar and pool, while Family Harbor provides extra-roomy accommodations.

Introducing a yearlong promotion, Carnival entered a floral replica of the ship, complete with a working trampoline representing Sky Zone, as a 55-foot-long float in the 130th Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 1.

The Carnival Panorama will be the company's first homeporting of a new ship in Long Beach in 20 years. It debuts with a special three-day inaugural cruise to Ensenada, Mexico, on Dec. 11, followed by the Dec. 14 launch of year-round, seven-day Mexican Riviera service — with stops at Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlán and Puerto Vallarta. Voyages depart from the newly refurbished **Long Beach Cruise Terminal**, located inside the 146,000-square-foot geodesic dome that once housed **Howard Hughes's Spruce Goose** wooden airplane.

The ship joins the **Carnival Imagination** and **Carnival Inspiration**, which together will carry more than 600,000 guests annually from the West Coast. Visit the company's website for additional information and reservations.

•carnival.com

►GREAT WOLF Continued from page 20

Totem Towers offers two, three-story body slides attached to Fort Mackenzie. Wolf Tail, a ProSlide SuperLoop with a SkyBox launch capsule drops guests — literally, when the floor disappears — 20 feet into a side-winder loop. Big Foot Pass is a water obstacle course that challenges kids and adults alike to balance on floating logs and lily pads and hold on to hanging nets as they try to get across the pool.

Crooked Creek is a relaxing, winding lazy river, while Slap Tail Pond offers three-foot waves in a gigantic indoor wave pool.

Cabanas and reserved seating are available. Each cabana is outfitted with a 32-inch satellite TV, two lounge chairs, two tables with chairs, locker access and souvenir drink cups with unlimited refills. The Georgia lodge also offers guests the option to reserve a table with four chairs. It comes with a pizza and a two-liter bottle of soda.

Younger guests can enjoy Otter Run, a family-friendly body slide, and the Chinook Cove water playground fea-



Dueling pipeline riders race alongside each other in separate channels within the same waterslide tube. COURTESY PROSLIDE

turing basketball and floating obstacles. Cub Paw Pool is a zero-depth-entry children's pool with water fountains, kiddie slides and spray-and-play adventures, while Whooping Hollow play pool is filled with tyke-sized waterslides featuring gentle slopes and tiny dips and turns.

The dry side of the complex includes Howl in One mini golf, Howlers Peak ropes course, Ten Paw Alley family bowling, Northern Lights Arcade, Rustic Ridge

rock-climbing wall, panning for gemstones, the Jammie Jamboree nighttime dance floor and the **MagiQuest** interactive adventure game. Children's activities include Camp H.O.W.L. kids' club, storytelling character appearances, Paws-On Projects and the Northwest Friends show.

Adults who still want to burn calories after chasing after the kids all day can find a selection of cardio and weight training equipment at the Iron Horse fitness center.

Dining options abound. They range from quick bites at Buckets Incredible Craveables, Timbers Tacos and Hungry as a Wolf Pizza to sandwiches at Freshwoods Market. **Dunkin' Donuts** and **Ben & Jerry's** provide coffee and snacks all day. Sit-down dining options include Campfire Kitchen and the new Barnwood restaurant — a farm-to-table outlet, that sources as much fresh food from local suppliers as possible.

Adults can grab a drink

without having to dry off at the Watering Hole, a bar inside the water park. At the end of the day, The Outpost offers a more traditional lounge atmosphere with craft beers and signature cocktails.

As with all Great Wolf Lodge locations, only resort guests can utilize the water park; there are no day passes for the general public. This policy keeps the lodge and water park from becoming overcrowded. Guests are allowed entry into the water park at 1 p.m. on the day of arrival and can stay as long as they wish on the day they check out.

Based in Chicago, Great Wolf Resorts opened its first property in Wisconsin Dells in 1997. Great Wolf Lodge Georgia is the 16th location in the company's portfolio; the 17th lodge opened a few months later in Gurnee, Ill.

Additional resorts are planned for Scottsdale, Ariz., opening later this year; Manteca, Calif., opening mid-2020; and Perryville, Md., with expected completion in 2022. The company has also announced plans to build a resort in Mexico, its first venture outside of the U.S. and Canada.

•greatwolf.com/georgia



PADDING

**ALL TYPES OF SLIDE &
POOL SIDE PADDING**



**PADDING FOR ANY
LOCATION**



**WATER
TRAMPOLINES**



TUBES



FLOATATION COLLARS

+1(513) 829-5533
FAX +1(513) 892-7466
ZEBEC@ZEBEC.COM
WWW.ZEBEC.COM



**INLINE
RAFTS**



**UPHILL
RAFTS**



**ROUND
RAFTS**



RAFTS



**SIDEWINDER
BUMPER**



**SIDEWINDER
TUBES**



Heavy-Duty Single, Double, Tear-Drop, 3 and 4 Person Clover Tubes made in USA with extra heavy material and overlapped, heat-welded seams

HEAVY DUTY TUBES



**Diamond
Raft**



BUMPER BOAT TUBES



**INFLATABLE
BARRIERS**



HT Heavy Triple Tube



**FOAM
MATS**



SNOW TUBES & RAFTS

LILY PAD WALK



COMPLETE LILY PAD WALK SETUP
• FOAM Lily Floats
• Overhead Netting
• Entry Pool Side Padding



RAPID RIVER RAFT



PLAY NETTING



ROPE & NETTING



BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

► **Women of Influence: Leanna Knoebel Muscato** — page 32 / **Confertainment at Europa-Park** — page 33



Students from the Millennia Gardens Elementary School Eco Club participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking for SeaWorld's new headquarters on Dec. 13. COURTESY SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ground broken in Florida for SeaWorld's new offices

ORLANDO — **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** celebrated the groundbreaking for its new headquarters at **SeaWorld Orlando** on Dec. 13.

The 40,725-square-foot, three-story building will be a shared home for ambassadors from the current Park Support Center and SeaWorld Orlando park.

"Today is much more than the groundbreaking of a new building," said **John Reilly**, company interim CEO. "It is about the foundation we are continuing to fortify and build upon as a company to extend and carry out our mission — to save species, learn about them, protect them, educate others about them, and to help them flourish both in our care and in the wild."

The ceremony included local community and tourism leaders, including Orange County Mayor **Jerry Demings** and **Visit Orlando's George Aquel**. Also attending was the **Millennia Gardens Elementary School Eco Club**, a local group of students that has been inspired by the **SeaWorld Orlando Rescue Team** and grows lettuce that feeds rescued and rehabilitating manatees.

Animal ambassadors including **Mattie**, a rescued bald eagle, and **Dunder**, an Asian small-clawed river otter, were on hand to help greet guests. Discovery Cove's most prolific diggers — resident three-banded armadillos — also were present for the groundbreaking.

The new building is projected to open this fall.

—Dean Lamanna



SeaWorld Interim CEO John Reilly

Overseeing the IAAPA Foundation

Co-directors **Bobbie and Tom Wages** bring heart to the nonprofit

AT: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

ORLANDO — **Bobbie and Tom Wages** have been on a mission since 2016 to help shape some of tomorrow's leaders in the global attractions industry.

As co-executive directors of the **IAAPA Foundation**, the husband-and-wife team are leading an enthusiastic charge to bring new blood into a business that serves up healthy portions of fun and excitement.

"We work with students and others who are interested in getting into our industry," Tom said of the organization during a recent interview with *Amusement Today*.

And there are, perhaps, no better ambassadors for this undertaking than the Wages. The daughter of late industry icon **Charley (Charles) Wood**, Bobbie grew up in the amusement park business.

Wood was often described as the "grandfather of the American theme park," as his **Storytown U.S.A.** in Queensbury, N.Y., was one of the first parks to incorporate themes into its attractions.

Tom joined Wood's company in the 1970s and eventually became general manager of another Wood property, **Fantasy Island** in Grand Island, N.Y., before returning to Lake George as president of the **The Great Escape** theme park (the rebranded Storytown). He later took a post with Kennywood Entertainment Co. as general manager of **Lake Compounce** in Bristol, Conn.

Though retired from the daily rigors of amusement park life, the couple has remained active with IAAPA.



Tom and Bobbie Wages

Both served as treasurers of the organization, and Tom was its board chairman in 1986.

A directional shift

Formed in 2010, the **IAAPA Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was originally established to do research and studies related to the industry.

During a 2015 IAAPA Board of Directors meeting, it was determined that the foundation would take a new direction in moving toward cultivating new attractions industry leadership.

Then-foundation chair Jane Cooper, president and chief operating officer of **Herschend Family Entertainment**, pre-

sented the revised mission to IAAPA's board, on which Tom was serving on at the time.

"I came home and asked Bobbie if she wanted to help with the new initiative, which she did," Tom recalled. "We immediately called Jane and she spoke to the IAAPA Foundation board to get its support for our involvement."

The Wages are quick to point out that success stories related to the foundation's work keeps them "juiced" about the tasks at hand.

"When working with students, it's very exciting to see them participate and watch their eyes open about the prospects of getting involved in our industry," Tom said.

Added Bobbie: "One of the things we have been working on at numerous locations is job shadowing. We have also invited students to attend student forums at [IAAPA trade shows]. They have the opportunity to listen to industry executives explain how they got into the business. The students really eat it up and then

► See IAAPA, page 26



Students in the Attractions Management degree program at Breda University in the Netherlands are shown with **Doug Akers** (center), senior director of park operations for Universal Beijing Theme Park & Resort in China, after a formal session at the convention center in Amsterdam continued outdoors. COURTESY IAAPA FOUNDATION

EUROPEAN SPARE AND REPLACEMENT PARTS IMPORTER

SINCE 1982



NORTH

PARTS

NORTH AMERICAN PARTS INC.
61C AERO DRIVE,
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK
USA 14225

PHONE: (716) 839-4791

FAX: (716) 839-4506

EMAIL: parts@nap-inc.com

www.nap-inc.com

SERVING THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

WE'VE KEPT YOUR RIDES IN MOTION SINCE 1982

Amusement
TODAY Your Amusement
Industry
NEWS Leader

All the Industry News you need - wherever & whenever you need it!

Download our app **FREE** today!

Every issue available on your Apple or Android Device!

Digital Edition
App
now
available!



SeaWorld San Diego to introduce B&M dive coaster in 2020

SeaWorld San Diego has revealed that a dive roller coaster manufactured by Bolliger & Mabillard of Monthey, Switzerland, will be its major new attraction for 2020. Called Mako, the ride will be the tallest, fastest and longest of its type in California, as well as the state's only floorless dive coaster. Lifted to a height of 153 feet with their feet dangling in the air, riders will be suspended at a 45-degree angle before plunging facedown 143 feet — accelerating to more than 60 mph. Riders will also experience a barrel roll, an Immelmann loop, a hammerhead turn and a flat spin as they race along nearly 2,500 feet of track. Each floorless vehicle will hold 18 passengers in three six-person rows. An animal-conservation element tied to the new attraction will focus on shark awareness and conservation, and it will include a partnership with a shark conservation organization.

COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO



SFM to manage new Cedar Point Sports Center

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair Entertainment Co. has selected Clearwater, Fla.-based Sports Facilities Management (SFM) to manage Cedar Point Sports Center, its new indoor sports complex.


With a planned opening by the end of this year, the facility is near Cedar Point amusement park and sits adjacent to Cedar Fair's existing outdoor sports complex, which opened in 2017. SFM has been involved in the planning and development of the indoor venue since its inception.

"SFM has a strong management team, national network and industry expertise that have provided a positive impact on the new Sandusky complex from the very beginning," said Duffield "Duff" Milkie, executive vice president and general counsel, Cedar Fair. "We look forward to working with SFM to create a best-in-class sports tourism facility that combines state-of-the-art amenities and leverages the existing tourism infrastructure."

Added SFM CEO Jason Clement: "The Cedar Fair team understands the importance of creating memorable experiences for guests, and this facility is going to be incredibly fun for a lot of families for many years to come."




The complex will house sports tourism spaces as well as a regional sports medicine center and a large interactive family entertainment component. Its approximately 145,000 square feet of activity and event space includes courts able to host 10 basketball games or 19 volleyball games simultaneously.

•sportadvisory.com



WATERLOO


Visit Us At GIBTOWN
 Booth# 803-804 / 903-904

Proud Supplier Of Canvas For The Outdoor Amusement Industry Since 1884

Visit our website or call today to learn about our extensive product line. From Cafe Umbrellas to Concession Canvas, temporary Pop Up structures to permanent steel frame structures, Ride Canvas to Game Trailer Canvas and many other options such as table and seat covers. We at Waterloo Tent will help you to find the perfect solution to your entertainment environment.

www.waterlootent.com



1-800-537-1193

It takes an industry village



During IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 in Orlando in November, Pam Landwirth (front), president and CEO of Give Kids the World Village, gratefully accepted a donation from the management team of Gibsonton, Fla.-based LJM & Associates, Inc. (from left): Don Culpepper, Dino Cappelli and Lewis Merz. The amusement safety and inspection company also reaffirmed its commitment to volunteer services to the nonprofit resort, which is located in Kissimmee, Fla. COURTESY LJM & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Zamperla donates to Give Kids the World

For one of the press announcements at the IAAPA Attractions Expo last November, the Zamperla team sent reporters outside for a special presentation. There, Antonio Zamperla, the company's CEO, recalled his emotions when he saw families taking a ride on a specially modified attraction Zamperla created and donated to Give Kids the World Village. "I have to make another ride for you," he told Pamela Landwirth, the Village's president and CEO. "When you see someone happy, it is the best feeling you can have. Doing something good comes back to you."

Kelly's Sunny Swing is the name of the new family ride installed in the very special

Kissimmee resort. This particular version was created to permit a child in a wheelchair to roll aboard and be secured while riding in his or her wheelchair.

"Words alone cannot begin to express how grateful we are to the Zamperla family for this incredible gift," said Landwirth. "Seeing the huge smiles on the faces of the children as they experience a ride for the first time ever is truly heartwarming. The joy on the faces of the parents as they watch is indescribable."

"We must do our part to give back," Zamperla told the industry.

—Tim Baldwin

Moved by the efforts of Give Kids the World, Antonio Zamperla (left) felt in his heart to donate to the cause. Dubbed Kelly's Sunny Swing, the new modified Happy Swing (right) is the second donated ride to Give Kids the World from Zamperla.

COURTESY
GIVE KIDS THE WORLD;
AT/TIM BALDWIN



IAAPA

Continued from page 24

go out on the show floor."

During an IAAPA event in Amsterdam, Netherlands, students were eager to listen and learn while exploring the expo floor.

"The next thing we knew, security was asking us to leave, as the convention hall was being closed for the day," Bobbie said of the exchange. "The lively conversations between a few industry experts and students spilled into the hallway and we were booted out of there, as well."

The group made its way to the sidewalk, where the dialogue continued.

"These experiences are certainly life-changing for some young people — we see that as they have the opportunity to speak with industry executives and see the expo," Tom said.

The foundation also focuses on colleges and universities that have programs to develop disciplines essential to the attractions industry.

Rosen College of Hospitality Management, an academic college of the **University of Central Florida** in Orlando, is a prime example of an institution that achieves just that.

The IAAPA Foundation is "the only organization to offer scholarships exclusively for students who are following the attractions management track at Rosen College," Bobbie said. "We have had the opportunity

to bring scholarship winners to the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando and monitor their progress as they work toward getting into the industry."

As a measure of the success attributed to the scholarship program, the Wages said four out of five recipients are currently working in the business, while one is still in school. Among them is **Frank Hamedl**.

During a summer break from Rosen College, Hamedl drove from his home in New York's Hudson Valley to Connecticut's **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**, where he became part of the rides department. His willingness to learn, along with keen attention to detail, quickly led to his being promoted to a manager of the rides staff — a position he held until graduating from Rosen in 2017. He also played an important role on the property's safety committee.

In 2017 he was named Mr. Golden Ticket, an honor bestowed for the annual **Golden Ticket Awards** presented by *Amusement Today* (AT). Each year, AT recognizes college students who plan to pursue a career in the amusement industry and are employed by the Golden Ticket Awards host park.

These individuals exemplify the spirit and integrity of the amusement industry by promoting the cornerstones of safety, service, courtesy and cleanliness at the highest level while consistently exceeding

job expectations. The annual designation by AT aims to promote education in the field of hospitality.

Today, Frank works fulltime for **Universal Orlando Resort**.

"It's really a great story," Bobbie said of Frank's success. "The idea of connecting universities and colleges to the industry is really working worldwide. We are working with them on curriculum as well as exchange programs."

At IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 in Orlando, held in November, there were nearly 60 educators in attendance.

"It was fun to see them connect there, be guest speakers and work together at roundtable discussions," Bobbie said. "We are also encouraging industry executives to be executives in residence at universities to share their professional experiences."

Looking ahead

"People need to know about and understand the foundation," Tom said, emphasizing the organization's goal of increasing student and industry engagement. "We have a great board and Jane Cooper has really pushed us from the get-go. She is the driver [of the board] and supporter of what we do."

"We really are making a difference with multiple institutions now involved," Cooper said of the efforts. "We always need funding to continue the progress we've made, not only academically, but also in getting more of our industry

experts involved."

"We're geared up to help students train to be the next generation of industry leadership," Tom said. "As with any career, when you come out of college with a focused degree, it gives you a leg up on the

job market.

"In looking ahead, we'll continually look for more ways to serve our mission."

Visit the IAAPA Foundation website for more information.

•iaapafoundation.org



Frank Hamedl, a recipient of an IAAPA Foundation scholarship, is shown at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark in Middlebury, Conn., in this file photo. Frank started as a ride operator at the park and quickly moved up the ranks to a management position. He currently works for **Universal Orlando Resort**. COURTESY QUASSY AMUSEMENT & WATERPARK

Keep the Crowds Coming Back for More...



Custom Insurance Coverage for the Amusement Industry Including New Businesses

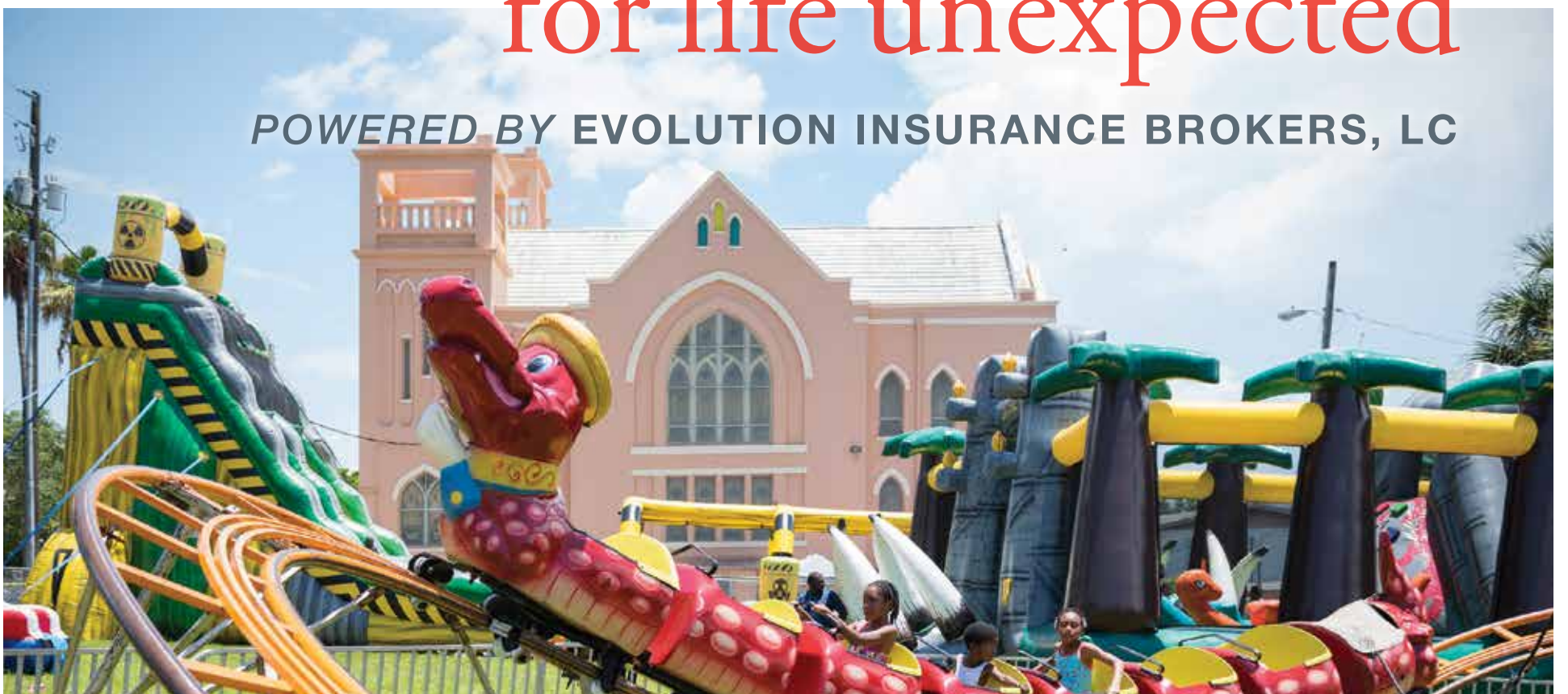
Some Typical Risks...

- Amusement Devices
- Parks & Centers
- Carnivals
- Water Parks
- Family Entertainment Centers
- Inflatables
- Golf Ranges
- Gymnastic Schools
- Health & Sports Clubs
- Martial Arts
- Ninja Gyms
- Shooting Ranges
- Sports Event Operations
- Recreation Centers
- Skateboard Parks
- Skating Rinks
- Batting Cages

XINSURANCE

for life unexpected

POWERED BY EVOLUTION INSURANCE BROKERS, LC



With our new, All-in-One Approach we offer commercial general liability, professional liability, active shooter coverages (& more) in one policy!

All 50 States | Limits up to \$20MM | Claims Hotline | All-in-One Approach

For A Fast Quote **Call: 877-585-2853** | www.xinsurance.com | **Email: quotes@xinsurance.com**

XINSURANCE is powered by Evolution Insurance Brokers, LC ("EIB"), an excess and surplus line insurance brokerage. XINSURANCE is a DBA of EIB, which is domiciled in and has its principal place of business in Sandy, Utah. This insurance product is offered by an unlicensed surplus lines insurer.

OBITUARIES

Scott Snyder, Zebec, Inc., water park/ride equipment

FAIRFIELD, Ohio — Scott Snyder of Zebec, Inc., a worldwide supplier of equipment for water parks, water rides and water play activities, passed away Dec. 21 in Houston, Texas. He was 56.

Snyder was born Dec. 13, 1962, in Parkersburg, W.V., the son of Ed Snyder and the late Sally (nee Mockabee) Snyder. He was a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army and a retired Army Special Forces Chief Warrant Officer 2.

Snyder devoted most of his time to Zebec, the family business, and he was proud of the company it had become in its more than 25 years of operation. He



Scott Snyder was proud of the family business, Zebec, Inc., which has been operating for more than 25 years. AT/FILE

also enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. His hobbies included marathon running, landscaping,

camping and being outdoors.

"Scott had a big heart and was one of those people who would do anything for you," said Patty Miller, trade show and advertising director of the World Waterpark Association (WWA). "He will be greatly missed. The staff of WWA is deeply saddened for the Snyder family, as well as the water park industry."

Snyder is survived by his wife, Wasana "Noy" Phothisat; a daughter, Danielle Koroschetz; two grandchildren, Madison and Memphis; his father, Ed Snyder; a brother, Chris Snyder; two nieces, Kelley King and Krista Bolser; great nieces Maya and Riley; and great nephew Lincoln.

JoAnn Davis, retired co-owner, Carnival Time Shows

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Carnival business pillar JoAnn Delores Davis died Dec. 6 while on vacation with family in Hawaii. She was 82.

Born in Butte, Mont., Nov. 3, 1936, Davis's destiny was charted in 1952 when she married Larry Davis of San Francisco. Six years later, they jumped into the outdoor amusement business with both feet — spending the early years of their marriage building Carnival Time Shows, Inc., which became the largest traveling carnival on the West Coast. They eventually worked with every major state and county fair in California.

Davis managed the financial end of the business. Her ability to stretch a dollar was crucial to the growth and success of Carnival Time Shows.

Later, her interest in phi-

lanthropy emerged. When the Davis family moved to Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs, in 1982, they immediately assimilated into the desert city's charitable community. Avid golfers, they forged many friendships and were highly visible in the local social scene.

They retired in 1998, but neither completely stopped working. They conceived, planned, funded and built the West Coast Tribute at Expo Park on the grounds at the California State Fair — creating a permanent memorial to the heroes and victims of 9/11.

JoAnn Davis was inducted into the Showmen's League of



Davis

America's (SLA) Hall of Honor in 2010. She held leadership and officer positions in the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association, the Ladies Auxiliary of the SLA, San Francisco Showmen's Association and many others. She was the first woman to join the Showmen's League of America.

On the philanthropic side, Davis raised millions and most likely contributed an equal amount of her own money. She donated to charities and social organizations throughout Greater Palm Springs, where she believed deeply in the arts and was a founding member of the McCallum Theater in Palm Desert.

Davis was preceded in death by her husband in 2004 and is survived by her daughter, Debby Helm, and son, Tommy Davis, plus five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Marvin Wolff, key force behind Queen Mary attraction

FERNDALE, Wash. — Marvin M. Wolff, the driving force behind the transformation of the historic, permanently berthed ship *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, Calif., into a tourist attraction, passed away at his home Nov. 29. He was 91.



Wolff

Wolff was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Feb. 3, 1927. At 16, he graduated from high school and went to sea on supply convoy merchant ships during World War II. After the war, he crossed Europe in search of family members who had been sent to Nazi concentration camps.

Wolff returned to the U.S. and attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point,

N.Y., where he studied marine architecture and naval engineering. He then worked as an audio engineer for media companies including Fox Movietone and NBC News.

Wolff's love of the ocean and ships brought him to Los Angeles, where he joined the Advanced Marine Technology Division of Litton Industries in Culver City and eventually worked with the Harbor Boat Building Company in Long Beach, where he did consulting work for the retired luxury liner *Queen Mary*, which had been docked in the port for two years.

Hired by Long Beach in 1971 as superintendent of operations, Wolff was tasked with helping the city convert the ship into a tourist attraction and lodge. After the ship flailed financially for several years, Wolff was

made director of it in 1976, and he set about improving the surrounding port area. Attendance climbed, and while maintenance needs and other factors kept the attraction from turning a profit, Wolff continued to oversee it through management changes — including its shift to private operation by the Wrather Corp.

Wolff promoted the idea of creating a dual educational attraction comprising the ship and Howard Hughes's Spruce Goose wooden airplane, which made only one flight — over Long Beach Harbor — in 1947. The aircraft was moved from storage to a giant dome for public display adjacent to the *Queen Mary*.

Wolff resigned as vice president of Wrather's port operations in 1981 and relocated to Washington State.

Mack receives French honorary title



Last fall, the Republic of France appointed Europa-Park managing partner Michael Mack honorary consul of the administrative districts of Freiburg im Breisgau and Tübingen during a reception that took place at the park in Rust, Germany. The honor recognizes Mack's commitment to the bond between France and Germany and promoting cross-border projects. Attending the ceremony were Mack and his wife, Miriam (at left), along with Anne-Marie Descôtes, the French Ambassador in Germany; and Mack's parents, Roland and Marianne. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

ON THE MOVE

Effective Feb. 1, **Greg Chiecko** is the new president and CEO of the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)**. He takes over the position from **Bob Johnson**, who retired after 24 years at the helm. Chiecko most recently served as director of sales at **Eastern States Exposition**, home of The Big E, the nation's sixth-largest fair, in West Springfield, Mass., where he enjoyed a 24-year career. He has hosted industry fundraisers and participated in events sponsored by OABA, the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** and the **International Association of Fairs and Expositions**, where he served as a board member and chaired several committees.



Chiecko

Firestone Financial, a subsidiary of **Berkshire Bank**, has announced that **Sal Cifala**, will join **Rich Gockelman** on the carnival and parks team. He will also continue to lead the amusement, vending and gaming industries. One of the Neehdam, Mass.-based company's most experienced lenders, Cifala joined Firestone in 1996, working in credit and asset management before starting in sales in 2002. As assistant vice president of sales for the amusement, vending and gaming industries, he manages strategic relationships with customers, manufacturers, distributors and operators — and he will bring that same service level to carnival and parks customers.



Cifala

In other Firestone Financial news, **Scott Cooper**, executive vice president and COO, will step down in May after 30 years with the company. Cooper joined Firestone in 1989 as assistant controller, having previously working as a CPA at the public accounting firm **Arthur Andersen**. He held various roles at Firestone and was later appointed senior vice president and CFO. He has served on the company's board of directors for over 20 years and has held board positions with various nonprofits. Firestone announced that Michael Smith, senior vice president, portfolio risk management, will assume the role of executive vice president and COO effective March 1.



Cooper

Filmmaker **David Kenneth**, founder and president of **Innovate Entertainment**, has partnered with the themed entertainment division of Los Angeles visual special effects house **Pixomondo's** as an executive producer. Kenneth's relationship with Pixomondo grew out of their collaboration on five themed rides at the recently opened **Warner Bros. World** indoor theme park in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Pixomondo's themed entertainment division produces digital walkthrough branded experiences, flying theater rides, immersive dome installations, digital dark ride media and concert installations for clients worldwide.



Kenneth

MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 01/16/19	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	32.58	40.60	26.88
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	336.20	415.70	304.50
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	55.92	70.82	45.73
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	35.90	44.00	30.43
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	110.91	120.20	97.68
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.25	0.69	0.23
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.01	72.18	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3185.00	3750.00	2582.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.56	2.30	1.18
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.32	8.25	5.45
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	27.48	38.41	21.61
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	10.70	15.18	9.84
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1744.00	2160.00	1117.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	26.09	32.47	13.58
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	62.27	73.38	49.79
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	8.42	14.4	7
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	636.00	704.00	590.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	2.85	4.15	1.73

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange

—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

BUSINESS WATCH**Cinepax bringing 4DX theaters to Pakistan**

HONG KONG — **CJ 4Dplex**, a leading cinema technology company, and **Cinepax Ltd.** have announced plans to launch the first two 4DX theaters in Pakistan this year. The two locations are **Ocean Tower Mall** in Karachi and **Packages Mall** in Lahore. Cinepax's flagship location, a 10-screen multiplex at Packages Mall, will house the country's first 4DX theater. Currently operating 44 screens in 13 locations in Pakistan, Cinepax is committed to delivering world-class family entertainment and offering consumers more choices in experiencing cinema. CJ 4Dplex specializes in immersive film technologies, with its 4DX auditoriums incorporating motion-based seating and more than 20 effects ranging from wind and scents to water, snow and lightning.

Legacy Entertainment fetes major projects

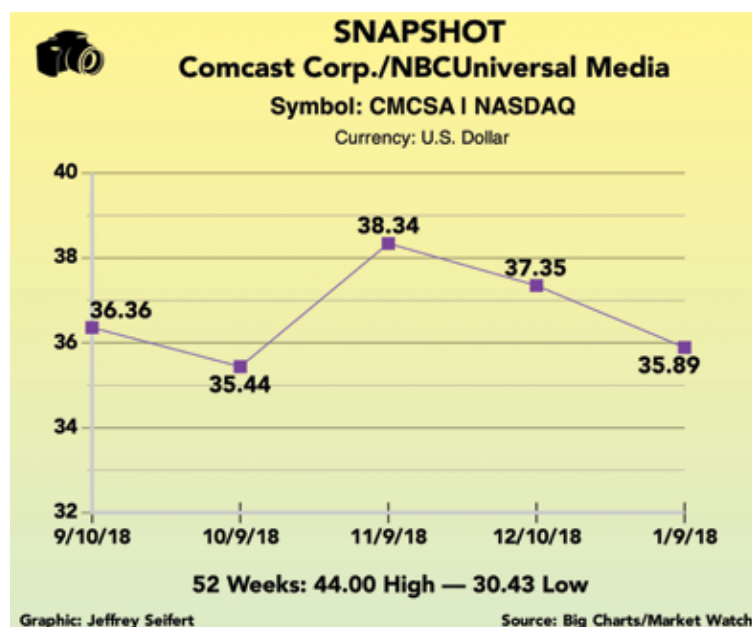
LOS ANGELES — Hollywood-based independent entertainment design firm **Legacy Entertainment** (formerly **Goddard Group**) recently celebrated the opening of one of its major theme park projects and announced a pair of additional ones opening this year. After five years of development and construction, the 73-acre Shanghai **Haichang Ocean Park** — featuring seven main pavilions and an array of amusements, including a rapids ride billed as the world's longest — officially debuted in November near the city's Dishui Lake. Coming soon in Indonesia: **Trans Studio Bali**, an indoor park described as "the world's first social media theme park," and **Trans Studio Cibubur**, which is near Jakarta and focuses on action stories told within richly themed environments. Both of the latter projects were realized in collaboration with **CT Corp.**

San Diego Zoo reports record gate in 2018

SAN DIEGO — **San Diego Zoo Global's** two renowned facilities, the **San Diego Zoo** and the **San Diego Zoo Safari Park**, saw a record combined attendance in 2018 — with more than four million people entering the zoo's turnstiles and more than 1.5 million visiting the Safari Park. In addition, the zoo itself reached a major milestone, as it was the first year that attendance had surpassed four million in its 100-year history. New features, such as the six habitats of Conrad Prebys Africa Rocks, the zoo's newest and most ambitious construction project, and Walkabout Australia, the Safari Park's immersive 3.6-acre habitat, were thought to be important contributors to the attendance boom. The nonprofit San Diego Zoo Global was founded in 1916 and is devoted to international conservation work. It has successfully reintroduced more than 30 species into wild habitats through long-term recovery programs.

Topgolf, TCL partner on inclusive esports

DALLAS — **Topgolf**, a leading sports entertainment center chain, and **TCL**, a fast-growing television brand in North America, have teamed up to generate esports entertainment at Topgolf designed for gamers from all walks of life. The first TCL Esports Lounge opened at Topgolf Las Vegas in early January. Through its partnership with TCL, Topgolf will add esports lounges to six Topgolf venues — creating an inclusive guest experience and offering daily esports play along with the traditional sports viewing areas optimized for individual and group esports gaming and entertainment. In addition to meeting pro gamers, guests can play esports games and participate in special events and coaching sessions. Topgolf also is partnering with national esports leagues to host events, qualifiers, and local and weekly leagues, which will attract gamers, influencers and celebrities to compete in tournaments at Topgolf venues. TCL and Topgolf expect their collaboration to reach more than 63 million guests annually.

**DIESEL PRICES**

Region (U.S.)	As of 01/14/19	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.049	-\$0.014
Midwest	\$2.823	-\$0.158
Gulf Coast	\$2.788	-\$0.037
Mountain	\$2.987	+\$0.003
West Coast	\$3.130	+\$0.032
California	\$3.742	+\$0.101

CURRENCY

On 01/17/19 \$1 USD =	
0.8770	EURO
0.7773	GBP (British Pound)
108.73	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9889	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3913	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3257	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

FOLLOW US for all the industry NEWS!

Women INFLUENCE

A view from the top...

In 1828, Rev. Henry Hartman Knoebel bought land known locally as "Peggy's Farm" in Elysburg, Pa. That purchase and a vision held by his grandson, Hartman Henry "Old Hen" Knoebel, created what is known today as Knoebels Amusement Resort.

The park marks 1926 as its official beginning. That year Knoebel built a restaurant on the grounds, installed a steam-powered Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel, put in a few simple games and opened a large concrete swimming pool adjacent to the site of the old swimming hole. Knoebels Amusement Resort, now much larger, is still run by the Knoebel family, of which Leanna Knoebel Muscato is a member.

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks and Attractions (PAPA), 2015-2016; first woman board member and first woman president (2017)**
- **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), long-time member; member and chairperson, IAAPA's games committee**

Muscato's childhood playground becomes her world

ELYSBURG, Pa. — Leanna Knoebel Muscato still loves to walk through Knoebels Amusement Resort in the early morning hours, before the hustle and bustle of the day, and before the park is open and guests begin to arrive. The early morning hours are hers to go check on her charges as she has done for many years.

Those charges are the family games in the park. They are traditional carnival games, many of which are made in-house. She has several toss games like the Cat Rack, the Block Party, Football Toss and Kozmo's Big Mouth Toss. She has a Dizzy Darts game and Hoops Basketball. There are the Flying Frogs and the Hungry Frogs, the Fish Pond and the Fishin' Hole. She has one water race game and five other race games. She also has two Big One cranes and a Hi-Striker. And there are others.

Muscato has been involved in various aspects of her family's park business, but she has remained most devoted to the games. She has seen many changes in the games segment of the amusement industry, especially in the technology arena, including the cashless system.

"Gaming is an impulse," she said. "If you have to go back to a kiosk and reload money onto your card, you just might not do it."

Muscato loves the simplicity of her games. She loves the fact that if something breaks, repairs are small.

"I love what I do," she said. "Growing up there was really fun. We swam during the day and skated every

night. We would get on a ride and ride all day. When it rained, we would play Monopoly for hours. I loved to sing with the Wurlitzer organ on the carousel. Everybody knew everybody."

Her father, Lawrence Knoebel, died a month and a half before she was born. "He died on June 10, 1951, and I was born July 31, 1951," Muscato said. "My Uncle Pete, my father's brother, took my mother [Margaret, 'Peg'] in as a partner in the park right away."

Muscato and her family, which included her mother, who passed away in 1990, and two older brothers, Dick and Buddy, lived about a quarter of a mile away from the park, "right at the top of the hill."

There was no lack of children to play with on that vast playground. Aside from her brothers, there were her Uncle Pete's children, David and Page, as well as others whose parents worked and lived on the grounds.

She learned many aspects of the park business. She learned how to use bronze powders and apply gold leaf from her friend, the park painter. She sold tickets and ran some of the games. Her first paid job was at the Fish Pond. She went with her mother to Shamokin, Pa., to a jobber to buy prizes in much smaller quantities than today.

Muscato attended East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in education, with an emphasis on physical education. After graduation, she

Leanna Knoebel Muscato

Games and Special Events
Knoebels Amusement Resort
Elysburg, Pa.



found jobs for teachers so scarce that she told her Uncle Pete she wanted to work in the park.

"He said, 'Well, most of the women in the family don't come back. They go on to different things.'"

She just looked at him. He said: "Well, I guess you could do a little painting."

As it turned out, they were painting the Grand Carousel. Muscato was able to paint some of the carousel horses.

"We were painting the beams a light tan, and I could see the original designs underneath," she said. "So, I traced them and made stencils."

The Grand Carousel was repainted in 2013, prior to its 100th birthday, and Muscato's stencils were used to bring back the original designs.

She found herself the only woman working on the grounds many times. She saw things she wished she hadn't, "like when coming around a corner too quickly."

Eventually, Muscato found a teaching position in health and physical education. She did that for the

next 31-plus years, coaching girls field hockey for 12 of them.

She continued to be in charge of the games, as she is today. She also grew the number of games greatly over the years.

Muscato has been active and influential in industry associations. For example, when she became the first woman president of PAPA in 2017 after serving two years as the first woman board member, Muscato was instrumental in the association's name change to include attractions to better serve the members in Pennsylvania.

Has she ever thought about doing something else? Not likely.

"My mother met my dad at the park, and I met my husband [Joe Muscato] at the park," she said. "I raised my daughter, Lauren, here. It's in my blood."

And it will forever be in her heart.

Note: Muscato's Uncle Pete Knoebel, whom she said "many times helped father all of us," passed away in 1988.

—Pam Sherborne

New Gardaland Resort hotel is hiring, readying for May debut

Magic-themed lodge offers fantasy décor and fun for families

VERONA, Italy — With the scheduled May 31 opening of the Gardaland Magic Hotel, Gardaland's third hotel, the theme park resort will offer a grand total of 475 rooms — 257 of which will be themed.

"The first bookings for next season are already being placed, especially from outside Italy," said CEO **Aldo Maria Vigevani**, who was expecting accommodations across the resort to be 30 percent booked by the end of March.

"Our themed rooms will offer children and their families a memorable experience inside Gardaland's world of magic," said **Luca Marigo**, resort sales and marketing director. "Our guests will be welcomed by talking trees, magic mushrooms, winged unicorns, magicians and fantastic creatures."

In an Enchanted Forest room, guests can relax under a talking tree amid a décor accented by flowers and vines. Those choosing to stay in a Cristallo Magico room will find themselves inside an elaborate ice castle. Kids can dress up as fearless knights to defend the castle while immersed in a world where unicorns and dragons swoop across the skies.

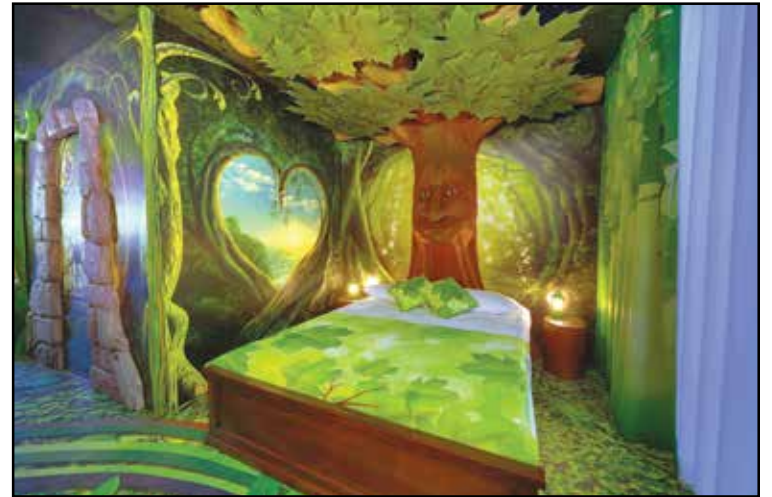
Inside of a Grande Mago room, guests will be staying inside the Casa del Mago (House of the Magician). The space is decorated with a huge magic hat and floating islands, creating an environment where kids can pretend to be apprentices of the great Magician.

All rooms will have two separate areas — one with a double bed and one with two single beds — allowing the whole family to experience the accommodations in maximum comfort.

While finishing touches are currently being put on the interior of the Gardaland Magic Hotel, employees are now being recruited from the provinces of Verona, Brescia, Mantua and Trento. The resort's three hotels eventually will employ a total of 175, both full-time and seasonal.

After enjoying record-breaking visitor numbers in 2018, and with its new lodge getting ready for operation, Gardaland expects to secure nearly 76,000 room reservations this year.

•gardaland.it



The Enchanted Forest rooms at the new Gardaland Magic Hotel will welcome families with imaginative and playful décor, including a tree that talks. COURTESY GARDALAND RESORT




LAS VEGAS, NEVADA // LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER // NORTH HALL 1




AMUSEMENT EXPO INTERNATIONAL 2019

ONE FULL DAY OF COMPREHENSIVE
INDUSTRY EDUCATION AND TWO
FULL DAYS OF EXHIBITS

CONFERENCE: MARCH 26
TRADE SHOW: MARCH 27-28

BACK IN ACTION IN VEGAS!







708.226.1300 // AMUSEMENTEXPO.ORG

For more information, contact Amusement Expo International Event Management, WT Glasgow, Inc., 708.226.1300 or check out our website amusementexpo.org

SPONSORED BY




AMERICAN AMUSEMENT MACHINE ASSOCIATION




AMUSEMENT & MUSIC OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

COLLOCATED WITH



NATIONAL BETA VENDOR ASSOCIATION



Ski Dubai behind UAE's push for ski organization membership

DUBAI — In a landmark development for snow sports in the region, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been granted provisional membership in the **International Ski Federation** (official acronym: FIS).

The provisional FIS membership will be converted to a full membership, subject to the approval of the next FIS congress, in 2020. It marks the beginning of a new era in skiing and snowboarding for the UAE.

The push for the membership has been supported heavily by **Ski Dubai**, an indoor skiing, snow activities and entertainment facility at **Mall of the Emirates**.

UAE national athletes are now able to compete in high-profile international events. A selection of representative athletes will be awarded licenses enabling them to participate in FIS-level international competitions such as the **Continental Cup** and the **World Cup**.

Athletes competing at World Cup level in 2021 will have the opportunity to qualify for the **Winter Olympic Games** in Beijing in 2022. Additionally, the UAE can now organize FIS calendar competitions, raising the country's profile on the international snow sports stage.

"The provisional FIS membership is a remarkable

achievement for the UAE and will ultimately allow our nation's homegrown athletes to compete on an international level," said **Hamel Al Qubaisi**, vice president of the **UAE Winter Sports Federation**. "It is the culmination of the ceaseless effort by the local snow sports community. We thank Ski Dubai for their instrumental role in this process."

Cameron Mitchell, CEO of **Majid Al Futtaim Cinemas, Leisure & Entertainment**, added: "Having brought snow to the UAE in 2005 [via Ski Dubai] and now running world-class events and training athletes to compete internationally, Majid Al Futtaim is extremely proud to have been a part of this journey."

In November, Ski Dubai hosted the second **UAE National Ski and Snowboard Championships**, where spectators witnessed skiing and snowboarding performances by more than 100 homegrown and international snow sports athletes.

Also in November, the facility hosted the UAE's first-ever **Para Snow Sports** event, featuring para alpine skiing and snowboarding events. Athletes from 15 countries participated.

For more information on Ski Dubai and its sports events, visit skidxb.com.

—Dean Lamanna



The UAE's provisional membership in the International Ski Federation has brought championship and para alpine skiing / snowboarding events to the indoor ski slope of Ski Dubai. COURTESY SKI DUBAI



MENALAC hosts seminar and networking event Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The **Middle East & North Africa Leisure and Attractions Council** (MENALAC), a non-profit trade council based in Dubai, hosted a two-day seminar and networking event titled "Focus on Saudi Arabia" in Riyadh Dec. 5-6.

It was the first-ever leisure conference held in the country. Attending were more than 110 delegates comprising leading attractions industry professionals from the Middle East and North Africa as well as leading amusement suppliers from Europe and the U.S.

The event's main objective was to explore new opportunities that are transforming the attractions business in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The event was sponsored by the **Abdul Mohsen Al Hokair Group** and **Al Othaim Group for Leisure and Tourism**, the two most prominent players KSA's leisure industry, along with **Embed EMEA**.

The seminar featured a keynote presentation by **Mohannad Abanomy**, infrastructure development director of the **General Entertainment Authority** (GEA), which is spearheading the change initiatives as a part of KSA's **Vision 2030** program. Abanomy's presentation outlined GEA's strategy to support the creation of diverse recreational options for all ages and the gaps that exist in the Saudi Arabian leisure landscape.

"We foresee a very bright future for the industry and its players — developers, suppliers, designers, operators,"



Attendees of the two-day MENALAC seminar in Saudi Arabia in December visited attractions around the capital of Riyadh for networking and fun. COURTESY MENALAC

Abanomy said. "We wanted the delegates to better understand the role of GEA. The seminar was a platform for us to invite and build fruitful connections with many regional and international experts to support our future growth."

The keynote address was followed by a CEO panel discussion, "Status of the Leisure Business — Past, Present & Future." Participating were **Fahad Al Othaim**, CEO, **Al Othaim Leisure**; **Mishal Al Hokair**, deputy CEO, **Al Hokair Group** and vice chair of MENALAC; and **Ghada Al Rashid**, CEO, **Gexpo**. They offered observations on the status of the industry along with their respective companies' plans to tap into new opportunities in order to meet the country's Vision 2030 goals. The panelists also shared their views on



the opportunities now available for women entrepreneurs and women generally within KSA's attractions industry. **Prakash Vivekanand**, secretary general of MENALAC, moderated the discussion.

Safety has always been a major focus at MENALAC events. Representing the organization's safety committee, **Markus Mack-Even** of **Mack Management Entertainment GmbH** and **Shyam Pillai** of **Landmark Leisure** compared EN and ASTM Safety Standards and spoke on the importance of subscribing and adhering to international safety standards.

Saeed Abdillahi of **Embed** wrapped the seminar with a



presentation on enhancing the visitor experience and increasing repeat patronage using technology — from guest analytics to loyalty initiatives.

The event saw delegates and attendees embark on half-day visit to leading indoor entertainment locations in the capital, including **Al Hokair Land**, **Snow City**, **Saffori Land**, **Vox Cinemas**, **Magic Planet** and **Al Hokair Time**. The field trip allowed for a practical evaluation of the market and its entertainment offerings as well as networking opportunities with operations managers.

"Events are about people, and it was wonderful to interact and exchange ideas with



so many leisure professionals from Saudi Arabia who are not always present at international shows," said **Dave Sandstrom**, vice president of Florida-based arcade games maker **Bob's Space Racers**. "Understanding their views at their operations was the big highlight for me."

"This was our first event outside Dubai, and we are overwhelmed by the response," said MENALAC's **Mishal Al Hokair**. "It shows the appetite the market has for such educational initiatives and networking platforms. Buoyed by this success, we will surely be looking at organizing similar events in other cities of Saudi Arabia."

•menalac.org

Amusement Expo to immerse Vegas in more out-of-home fun

LAS VEGAS — When it returns to the **Las Vegas Convention Center** March 26-28, **Amusement Expo International** (AEI) will complete its first decade as the premier program for not only the amusement / coin-op games and family entertainment center (FEC) markets, but an expanding roster of industry segments closely aligned with its attendees and exhibitors.

The education/equipment event, co-sponsored by the **American Amusement Machine Association** and the **Amusement and Music Operators Association**, will continue to fulfill its role as an annual source of innovative new products, programs, ideas and information, as well as a



major networking opportunity.

AEI Conference features one full-day dedicated to industry education, as well as two full days focused on exhibits that cover the complete equipment spectrum: jukeboxes, merchandisers, video games, kiddie rides, pinball machines, cranes, dartboards/pool tables, redemption equipment, ATMs, play spaces and more.

Since the first AEI in 2010, new allied sectors have been added to the mix, including co-locations with the **National Bulk Vending Association** and **Laser Tag Museum** — creating new expansion opportunities for industry business owners and executives. And returning this year will be exhibits and seminars on the growing virtual reality (VR) sector.

AEI's education day will open with "The Irresistible Power of Strategic Storytelling," a presentation by keynote speaker **Kindra Hall**, president and chief strategy officer of **Steller Collective**, a storytelling-focused marketing agency. The educational lineup will continue with 16 different breakout sessions designed spe-

cifically for street operators and FECs along with a VR session track. The day will wrap up with presenter **Tyler Bushnell**, founder of **Polycade**, who will discuss strategies for building recurring business by leveraging the nuances of millennials and Gen Z.

Besides education and equipment, a highlight of AEI will be the All-Industry Gala Reception, to be held 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, in the **Westgate Resort and Casino**, adjacent to North Hall 1 of the Las Vegas Convention Center, where the exhibits will be located.

For more information on registration, event scheduling and accommodations, visit AEI's website.

•amusementexpo.org

Year-round events keep revenue consistent

Europa-Park keeps resorts full in winter with Confertainment

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

RUST, Germany — Following the close of the Christmas season, like most parks that have extended their operating calendar through the holidays, **Europa-Park** goes silent for the most part. Ride maintenance and winter overhaul takes place. However, the park boasts five world-class hotels (with a sixth under construction) that owners don't want to see remain idle during the winter months.

Enter **Confertainment**, a term that merges conferencing and conventions with entertainment.

"We have 1,300 events a year at Europa-Park," **Felix Heuberger**, executive assistant, told *Amusement Today*.

Let those numbers sink in.

"We have close to 30 locations within Europa-Park, the hotels and **Confertainment Center**," he said. "The Arena in Europa-Park is used for events 70 percent of the year."

The Arena is the largest space the resort has to offer. The 3,200-square-meter facility can hold up to 5,000 people, all indoors away from weather elements. It opened in 2017. The venue also boasts some incredible amenities like an elevated 125-square-meter conference room equipped with state-of-the-art technology and VIP upper-deck lounge that overlooks the entire Arena event space. The Arena is equipped with dressing rooms and high-end



Depending on space needs and a preference for style, Europa-Park's **Confertainment Center** keeps year-round business flowing. Stained glass windows accentuate the **Traumpalast** venue (top left). The **Salon Versailles** adds a royal flair to a meeting (top right). The **Arena** (above) can host a variety of events with the availability of seating 3,000 people or having 5,000 people standing at a concert. AT/TIM BALDWIN

kitchens that can accommodate four-course dinners.

That's just the beginning. The Europa-Park Dome, Ballroom Berlin and **Traumpalast** mirror tent are among the numerous facilities available. Each themed and decorated in grand style, to hold an event in one of these beautiful spaces should be a highlight for any business.

Within the **Confertainment Center**, businesses can opt for a wide range of sizes depend-

ing on their needs. Facilities adorned in Medieval décor, circus theming or a carousel ballroom are all on hand.

Having the center right at the front of the theme park also has its advantages. Weather permitting, as well as operations and budget within each business, adjacent rides can be incorporated into events, even during the winter months, as well as after hours during daily operation.

"We have fed 10,000

people throughout the entire **Confertainment Center** at one event at Halloween," said Heuberger. "I think that's our record."

Krónasår - The Museum Hotel opens its doors this spring. Like the other four-star hotels at the resort, it will offer meeting spaces. Its location is bridged to the upcoming second gate: **Rulantica**, an enormous, elaborately-themed indoor water park. The water park is expected to open this fall.

Along with the **Confertainment Center**, the new water park is certain to help keep resort hotels full, even in the months the Europa-Park theme park is closed.

Because of the resort's location on a major highway positioned on the border triangle of Germany, France and Switzerland, convention business can reach even an international audience.

•europapark.de

American Dream given shopping center award

CANNES, France — During the global retail real estate community's annual gathering in November at MAPIC (the event's acronym is derived from French for "the international professional market of commercial establishments and distribution"), the convergence of physical and digital retail — and enhancing the customer experience — received special focus.

American Dream, a retail and entertainment center being completed by Triple Five Group of Companies in East Rutherford, N.J., and set to open this year, was honored as Best Futura Shopping Center at the three-day event, which welcomed participants from 80 countries. The three-million-square-foot complex was one of a number of innovative projects to receive awards in various categories.

The Best Futura category honors shopping destinations currently under construction. Selection criteria include architectural and environmental qualities; use of innovative materials, equipment and techniques; concept originality; integration of the project into its environment; and its impact on the local community.

GH+A Design Studios and Gensler Architects, collaborators on design elements at American Dream, also were recognized.

"We are honored and exhilarated to have American Dream selected by MAPIC colleagues and luminaries as the winner of the Best Futura Shopping Center," said Don Ghermezian, president and CEO of American Dream. "Our approach to entertainment, dining and retail will create a truly unique customer experience."

American Dream will offer more than 450 retail, food and specialty shops, plus 18 acres of entertainment. Attractions include a DreamWorks Water Park, a Nickelodeon Universe Theme Park, a 16-story Big Snow Indoor Ski & Snow Park, Kidzania, a 285-foot-tall observation wheel, luxury movie theaters by CMX Cinemas, a Sea Life Aquarium and a Lego Discovery Center.

—Dean Lamanna



Zamperla tapped as operator, ride supplier for food park FEC



Billed as the world's largest agri-food park, FICO (Fabbrica Italiana Contadina) Eataly World in Bologna, Italy, is adding amusements to its huge menu of trattorias and food kiosks. Leading ride manufacturer Zamperla, headquartered less than two hours away in Vicenza, will supply and operate 13 rides and attractions as part of a 6,500-square-meter family entertainment center (FEC) expansion at the 100,000-square-meter property. Zamperla is working with Brendola, Italy-based Team Park Project on the design of the facility, which will include a show arena and farmhouse theming complete with human and animal characters. As of its one-year anniversary last November, the food park had attracted 2.8 million visitors. The FEC is set to open this fall.

COURTESY FICO EATALY WORLD

Career reflections in 'Always Cedar Point: A Memoir of the Midway'

REVIEW: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

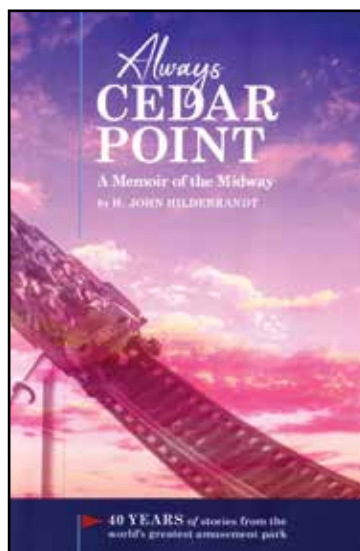
John Hildebrandt enjoyed a four-decade career within the confines of a peninsula surrounded by the waters of Lake Erie. Cedar Point, the world-famous America's Roller Coast, is a place of legends. Following his retirement as general manager in 2013, Hildebrandt carried home with him a treasure chest of tales and memories.

Whether the reader is a fan of the park, has ever worked there or works in the amusement industry, Hildebrandt's *Always Cedar Point: A Memoir of the Midway* (Casa Flamingo Literary Arts, Oct. 2018) is an easily relatable ride.

While basically following

a timeline, the book, with occasional random insights into history and broad overviews, isn't a slave to chronology. But for the most part, the adventure follows Hildebrandt's journey starting out in his 20s in public relations and marketing and rising to management. Along the way, he discovers that operating an amusement park — a huge one, at that — is filled with uncertainties, risks and creative thinking. Hildebrandt doesn't pull any punches whether discussing hits or flops, attendance drivers and unexpected problems.

What makes *Always Cedar Point* such a fun read is how the author intertwines the growth of the park with his own life including how the



openings of the Gemini and Millennium Force roller coasters ran up against the birth of his twins and their college graduation. His fear of heights

adds comical touches to many stories, and his first ride on Top Thrill Dragster is nothing short of hysterical.

Along the way, industry professionals can identify with and learn from the challenges of marketing new attractions, selecting the right ride names and facing changes in technology. Nowhere is embracing trends more vivid than in Hildebrandt's recollections of the mushrooming evolution of the park's Halloweekends juggernaut.

Two later sections of the book relive his time as a general manager, first for a year at Dorney Park and then his last nine years at Cedar Point. Observations of how the weight of suddenly being

responsible for everything are sincerely conveyed and how the position is both daunting (particularly under the microscope of corporate figureheads right on property) and ultimately rewarding.

The book culminates with Hildebrandt's "Closing Act." His final season, final operating day and final day in the park are shared from the heart. Although Cedar Point was closed in the coldness of December, before leaving the park for the last time, he made a point to drive to many places where he had made daily walks throughout his career. The reader, having just taken the journey with him, can relate to the teary-eyed reflections.

• casaflamingo.com

Serving Montgomery Inn Barbecue is as easy as:



Heck, we even fold the wet naps for you.

WE'RE MONTGOMERY INN, AMERICA'S #1 RIBS RESTAURANT*.

We've been providing great meals, featuring our world-famous Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce, for theme parks and other attractions for years. We know how the aroma of smoked barbecue pulls in the customers. We know how important it is please your guests with delicious, nutritious meals. We know how our pulled pork barbecue and pulled smoked chicken barbecue sandwiches melt in your mouth and we know how incredibly easy these meals are to prepare.

Make your guests happy. Make your food servers happy. Make the easy choice of Montgomery Inn.



FOR MORE INFO, CALL EVAN ANDREWS AT 513-791-1942 OR E-MAIL HIM AT EVANANDREWS@MONTGOMERYINN.COM.



SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

► Ride inspector Dan Dudley recalls NAARSO's early days — page 39 / A.R.M. sets safety bar high — page 40

AIMS Safety Seminar draws record crowds, stresses education

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GALVESTON, Texas — Three years ago, **Judy Toff**, **Dollywood Resort**, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., transitioned to that park's safety department. In taking a close look of guests coming through the park's accessibility center, she saw something significant.

"I saw that in three weeks we had had 175 children in the park with some degree of autism," Toff told attendees during one of the more than 200 classes being offered at the **2019 AIMS Safety Seminar**.

Toff told attendees how this led to significant changes at the park in an effort to create a safer environment not only for those with autism, but all guests.

Toff was just one of more than 100 volunteer instructors at this year's seminar that ended up drawing a record crowd of 480. It was held Jan. 14-18, in Galveston, Texas. Last year's attendance, another



The record-breaking attendance at this year's AIMS Safety Seminar was helped along with large groups coming from the same companies. Seaworld Parks and Entertainment (above left) and Herschend Family Entertainment (above right) both sent about 30 employees. The AIMS Ambassador team (below) stopped for a group photo. From Six Flags Fiesta Texas (left to right): Malachi Flores, Shakeya Bright, Justice De Lacruz, and Sarah Salinas. AT/GARY SLADE

record, was 450.

"I think the industry is just becoming more and more safety conscious," said **Holly Coston**, AIMS seminar manager for the last 25 years. "We have people from amusement parks, water parks, family entertainment centers (FECs) and carnivals."

The seminar offers a very wide range of safety education in topics from Toff's accessibility issues to arc flash awareness, ATSM standards, active

shooter, aerial passenger ropeways, amusement park railroad, block system trouble shooting, developing a maintenance program, bearing types and uses, electrical grounding, electrical schematic reading, fall protection, heat related illnesses, lithium batteries, mid-way game safety, pumps and plumbing maintenance, shop and tool safety, sign safety, working with inspectors and visual inspection.

New this year was an FEC series certification program. AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley** said this series was an eight-hour schedule of classes specific to the FEC industry.

AIMS offers certification testing in these areas: Certified Maintenance Technician - Levels I, II, and III; Certified Operations Technician - Levels I, II, and III; Certified Aquatics Operations Technician - Level I; Associate Ride Inspector - Level I; Certified Ride Inspector - Level I and Professional Ride Inspector - Level III.

NAARSO testing is

► See AIMS, page 37



2019 AIMS Scholarship recipients

Each year, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) and the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) give out scholarships to those within their industries to attend the AIMS Safety Seminar.

Below are the recipients for this year.

IAAPA Alan Ramsay Scholarship Recipients

Alexandra Green, The Track
Byron Anderson, Boomers San Diego
Jason Arnoldi, Bay Beach, City of Green Bay
Robert McDoulett, Extreme Inflatables
Karen Strahl, Holiday World & Splashin' Safari

OABA Scholarship Recipients

Alvaro Ruiz, Ray Cammack Shows
Charl Verwey, Luehrs' Ideal Rides
Thomas Brookens, Luehrs' Ideal Rides

OABA June Hardin Scholarship Recipient

Philip Dorman, Dorman Enterprise
and Twisted Amusements



The 2019 AIMS Safety Seminar held for the second consecutive year in Galveston, Texas, broke attendance records with 480 attendees. The seminar traditionally offers over 200 classes for students to tailor their own curriculum.

AT/GARY SLADE

DEDICATED TO SAFETY 24/7/365



**PREMIER
SERVICE™**

a division of Premier Rides

SPARE PARTS | REPLACEMENT VEHICLES | RIDE RELOCATION
RIDE REHABILITATION | CHAIN & SPROCKET REHABILITATION
CHAIN & SPROCKET REPLACEMENT | LEGACY RIDE UPGRADES
SAFETY MODIFICATION SERVICES | QUEUE GATE SYSTEMS
MAGNETIC BRAKE UPGRADES | CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE



This is the last AIMS Safety Seminar as executive director for Karen Oertley, left. Seen with her here are Holly Coston, center, AIMS seminar manager, and Lesley Lassiter, AIMS certification program manager. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Bill Wheeler (left) of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Harris County Texas, and Jeff McGowers (right), Harris County Sheriff's Department, offered an active shooter training course. AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Matt Heller instructed the popular AIMS Operational Leadership and Communication class. AT/GARY SLADE

►AIMS

Continued from page 36

offered as well.

But, AIMS seminar organizers stress that even though there is an extensive ride certification program and it has been growing, "the seminar is also about education."

For example, Toff's class showed attendees how finding out how to help families in which there is autism not only makes for a safer park, it also makes for a busier one. In the last three years, Dollywood has hosted 5,000 families where a member has been diagnosed

with autism. After setting up their calming rooms, an area where a person with autism has a chance to decompress, Toff said they have had over 400 families use it.

"We have had over 350 families come to our park because the room existed," she said.

Jeff McGowen, Harris County Sheriff's Department, Houston, and Bill Wheeler, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Harris County, led the active shooter classes. The two stressed training and educating the staff.

"But the first thing you

need to envision is a shooter coming into your venue," McGowen told attendees. "If you believe that can happen, then you will take it seriously."

Keynote speaker this year was **Pat Hoffman, Hoffman Consultants**, who gave attendees a historical journey through amusement rides.

The AIMS safety seminar also offers hands-on classes. This year that was held at **Galveston Island Historic**

Pleasure Pier, owned by **Landry's**. **Pleasure Pier** hosted the Wednesday night AIMS social.

"We really appreciate the support that Landry's has given us," Oertley said. "Not only with letting us use their rides for our classwork, but also being so accommodating in hosting our social event."

"We also really appreciate all our volunteers that give up their time and their expertise as well as all our supporting sponsors," she said.

The 2019 seminar is Oertley's last in the position of executive director. She has

held this position for the last five years and will retire in April. She is thankful that the number of sponsors has grown since she has been at the helm. This year, there were 44 sponsors of the safety seminar. In 2015, there were 21.

"So, we have more than doubled that number," she said.

There is currently a search by the AIMS board to find Oertley's replacement.

Coming on board this year was **Lesley Lassiter**, AIMS's new certification program manager.

•aimsintl.org



Hoffman



QUALITY
SAFETY
VALUE
ASSURANCE
since 1975



Load Wheels
Guide Wheels
Upstop Wheels
CNC Hub Manufacturing
Flume Wheels
Nylon Wheels & Parts
Solid Urethane Parts

maclan.com • 800.788.3951 • info@maclan.com • Lakeland, FL



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



FRIENDS OF AIMS

Galveston Pleasure Pier • John P. Hinde • Landry's, Inc. • Eli Bridge Co.



(714) 697-6654 • www.aimsintl.org



Dan Dudley recalls early era of amusement safety regulation

Early NAARSO leader helped create, fortify and uphold ride rules

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

BALTIMORE, Md. — **Dan Dudley** never planned to spend most of his career in the amusement industry. That's just the way it worked out.

In the early 1970s, Dudley was hired as an elevator / crane inspector by the **Maryland Occupational and Safety Health Administration (MOSHA)**. The year 1972 was a particularly eventful one for the agency on the amusement ride front: two young girls were thrown from a Trabant ride and another youngster's hair became entangled to the point of serious injury in Ferris wheel equipment.

"We had a law on the books, but no rules and regulations" when it came to ride inspections, recalled Dudley to *Amusement Today*.

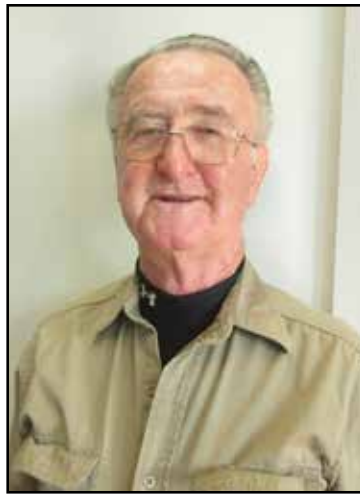
As the youngest member on the MOSHA inspection crew, Dudley was told he would be a ride inspector — in fact, Maryland's first. Without any experience, he found himself inspecting attractions at **Trimper's Rides** in Ocean City. The elder Trimper subsequently told Dudley's superiors: "You better send this young man to school, because he has no idea what he is doing."

"Trimper was right," Dudley said.

Dudley enrolled at an inspection school held at **Chance Mfg.** in Wichita, Kansas, conducted by **AREA** (Amusement Recreation Equipment Association), which later became **AIMS International**. The oldest student in the class, he overheard someone comment: "Nobody talk to him, he's Maryland OSHA." One of the class instructors, **Red Wood**, the first safety coordinator for the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)**, saw that Dudley was green and took him under his wing.

"Red put his arm around me and said, 'C'mon boy, you buy the beer, I'll train you,'" Dudley said. Wood proved an invaluable mentor, helping Dudley learn inspection and, eventually, getting him inspection assignments at many fairs.

After attending more sem-



Dan Dudley of Dudley Consulting at the 2018 Northwest Showmen's Ride Safety Seminar. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

inars, Dudley quickly became a good listener, especially with the carnival community. And he found that much of his training came in the field.

Student to standard-bearer

Dudley soon became instrumental in helping to write inspection rules and regulations in Maryland. "We were the seventh state to come in with a law," he said. "Arkansas, North Carolina, New York and Iowa were among those ahead of us."

Maryland had the notoriety of being a tough program. Dudley trained his crew of six and had the availability of 28 additional inspectors in the state, if needed.

While Dudley was still working for MOSHA, Don Deggeller with **Deggeller Attractions** helped him line up work at the **Florida State Fair**. Dudley pursued the gig by taking leave time to make the trek. He also jumped on an opportunity to inspect rides for the **Mississippi State Fair** in Jackson at that time. By 1989, Dudley had resigned from MOSHA to do ride inspections and ride insurance writing full-time around the country. He performed work for 15 different fairs, including the **State Fair of Texas**, where he inspected the rides for 31 years. Others included the **New York State Fair**, Syracuse; **Erie County Fair**, Hamburg, N.Y.; **San Diego County Fair**, Del Mar, Calif.; **South Carolina State Fair**, Columbia; and **Champaign Valley Fair**, Essex Junction, Vt. All told, Dudley has inspected rides in more than 40 states.

Len Cavalier approached Dudley and others about forming their own group. It grew

into the **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO)**. Only state regulators comprised the organization's membership during the first few years, but others soon joined.

NAARSO was committed to standardizing amusement ride inspections across the U.S. However, it was a futile goal because each state wanted to set its own rules and regulations. The organization then turned to ride manufacturers to unify the lines of communication.

In the early days, ride workshops were geared more toward selling ride parts. "Back in the old days, nobody would talk," said Dudley, who served as NAARSO's second president in 1990-91. "You had a secret about a ride, you kept it. We didn't share any statistics or anything. There were no manufacturer safety bulletins back then."

"Once the doors got opened, we had the park people, traveling people, water parks, go-karts, inflatables — that's how strong we are. [Today] if there's something that happens on a ride, it's on the computer."

NAARSO's first training class in Frankfort, Ky., in 1988 attracted 50 people; attendance at more recent classes has approached 400. Dudley has been involved in all of the classes since the training's inception.

Len Cavalier, who today serves as NAARSO's executive director, described Dudley as "an important cog. He likes to talk to newcomers. He holds their attention."



Dudley gained much of his knowledge inspecting rides in the field at fairs from coast to coast. COURTESY DUDLEY CONSULTING

Dudley's philosophy, developed over decades in the field: Rides don't hurt people. People hurt people.

"If the manufacturer manufactures the rides right, and we maintain, inspect and operate them right, nobody gets hurt," he said. "It's human error, generally, when we have an incident. You learn by experience and you learn by the people that move, operate and maintain the stuff."

Manufacturers have come a long way with their safety programs, Dudley pointed out. "The rides have gotten bigger, faster, more inertia, more stress, more G-forces. In order to be a safety consultant now, you almost have to be a structural engineer or have some kind of structural background."

Importantly, he added, "As an inspector you have to get the confidence of the people operating the rides, mainly the ones [who] set up, tear down and the ones [who] maintain it. I like to see it when it comes in on the trucks. Once it's apart, you can see it better. Once it's put together, I call that an erection inspection."

Ride operators are the most critical part of the equation. He said, "Your finger controls [riders'] safety."

Recognition earned

Those who have worked with Dudley have extolled the inspector's own crucial safety role.

Keith Inners, unit manager of **Majestic Midways**, recalled an inspection that meant a lot to his crew: "Years

ago, Dan Dudley came out to inspect several of our rides. He was on one particular ride called the Swinger [Watkins]. He was going down through his checklist, checking off certain items. At the bottom of the form it had a little space for comments. In the comment section he put, 'This ride very well maintained.'

"I took that sheet of paper and shared it with the employees who set up that ride. It was amazing what it did for the morale of the guys who worked on the ride — they knew that somebody cared. They very seldom hear the positive. I think it's important that we hear that sometimes, because it went a long way in just improving the overall safety of the company."

In 2015, OABA presented its Industry Pioneer Award to Dan Dudley, honoring his long career of ride safety contributions to the outdoor mobile amusement industry. In 2010, Dudley received AIMS International's first Red Wood Award, which recognizes the most outstanding contributions to amusement ride inspection and midway safety.

These days, **Dudley Consulting** does about a half dozen local jobs each year, including inspections and insurance writing for a manufacturer.

"I'm 80 years old, and I've been very blessed," Dudley said. "The amusement ride industry made a good life for me and my wife. I'm proud to have been associated with the industry for 40 years, and I've enjoyed the people I have met."



A.R.M., MJ Engineering link on new version of Frenzy thrill ride

Manufacturer and consultant partner to enhance safety

GAHANNA, Ohio — Dangling in the air on a carnival midway, staring straight down at the ground 60 feet below (and getting closer every second), is not the time for fairgoers to worry whether the thrill ride they are strapped into is safe.

However, it is a legitimate concern — one that most likely more people have had since the Fireball ride tragedy at the Ohio State Fair in 2017.

After all, many of these portable attractions are rolled into town, set up, taken down and rolled out again before fun-seekers can finish their cotton candy. And that raises the question: “Are these rides really safe?”

For the past decade, **MJ Engineering**, a full-service custom machine and system design consulting firm, has been working with amusements and their manufacturers to make sure thrill rides are soundly con-



A.R.M. debuted its latest version of Frenzy at IAAPA Expo 2018 in Orlando. The manufacturer worked with MJ Engineering — shown is the company's Shripal Bhavsar performing a finite element analysis on Frenzy's design — to ensure all aspects of the ride meet the highest safety standards. COURTESY A.R.M.; DARLENA KELLEY (BHAVSAR)

structed and up to code. The company advises on ride-repair procedures and performs failure analyses, safety and risk assessments, and code compliance testing, as well as assistance with ground-up designs.

MJ Engineering was involved from the beginning with the second and latest evolution of manufacturer **A.R.M. (USA), Inc.'s** popular Frenzy, a pendulum-style thrill ride. It

was unveiled last fall at the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo** in Orlando.

“Hundreds of hours of engineering go into these rides,” said **Richard Wand**, president of MJ Engineering. “In fact, they must meet a federal code that is hundreds of pages long, taking into account everything from patron safety, ride dynamics, storage and transport to the

ride's structure, controls and performance life — and even environmental conditions, like wind and ice.”

MJ Engineering's **Shripal Bhavsar** helped to certify Frenzy. “Our process is to do the analysis and calculations for each individual part of the ride, based on the codes that are available,” he said. “We usually determine a factor of safety, depending on what part we are looking at, which is critical to the structure and the patrons.”

To verify ride strength, MJ Engineering uses a combination of hand calculations and finite element analysis — a computerized method to help predict how the ride will react to real-world forces — to determine whether it will break, wear out or work the way it was designed.

“In a nutshell, it needs to be designed to sound engineering principles,” said MJ Engineering's **Phil Snyder**, who also worked on the original version of Frenzy.

Safety is one of those principles.

“Safety is extremely important to us,” said Wand. “If we think the safety of the patron has been compromised in some fashion, we're required — we're bound — to say something and shut that ride down.”

For that reason, Wand believes, states should have more professional engineers involved in the ride inspection and approval process. Ultimately, it is the manufacturer's responsibility, and MJ Engineering supports the manufacturer by providing its professional opinion.

“The amusement industry is held to very high standards,” said **Mike Gill** of A.R.M. “Manufacturers understand this better than anyone. Generally, we approach MJ Engineering with a task, whether it be a conceptual design, a

design change of an existing ride or a repair. Then we collaborate on the task until it meets all requirements.”

For example, A.R.M. asked MJ Engineering to help reduce the weight of the new Frenzy for easier transportation and setup. The challenge is controlling the dynamics of Frenzy — a large pendulum that swings riders back and forth. MJ Engineering managed to decrease the attraction's weight while keeping all four of its supports securely on the ground.

To achieve a higher level of safety, MJ Engineering spends a lot of time doing “failure mode analyses,” which looks at everything that could possibly go wrong with a ride. A risk assessment is assigned, and if it turns out to be high, other steps are put in place to make sure it is mitigated and the risk is reduced. Most often analyzed are stresses in the structural members, specifically fatigue.

According to federal code, amusement park manufacturers are required to make rides last 35,000 working hours, which equates to approximately 20 years.

Federal guidelines additionally dictate patron loads and how the restraints must be designed, based on the dynamics of the ride. Patron load can usually be determined by seat fit and what the restraint will do, which saves patrons the embarrassment of being weighed as they are standing in line. The general rule: if the restraint locks, a patron can ride.

The ergonomics of the seat and restraint, and the adjustability of the latter, also are carefully considered. This ensures that the patron is secured as efficiently and comfortably as possible while still maintaining utmost safety — always the number-one goal.

• mjengineering.com
• armrides.com

Why become an OABA member?

EDUCATION
OABA "VOIT" on-line training; Crisis/Media training; Scholarships; AIMS & NAARSO Scholarships

COMMUNICATION
OABA Website, ShowTime, Xtra and Midway Marquee, Social Media

ADVOCACY
H-2B visa program, State amusement ride safety regulations, Federal DOT regulations

MEMBER BENEFITS
Wide array of member discounts to help your mobile amusement business

PROTECTING THE FUTURE
Promoting and protecting your family business for the next generation

EXCELLENCE
Quality Assessment, Audits, Circle of Excellence, Foundation for the Future

NETWORKING • TRADE SHOWS
Members, Board, Manufacturers and Suppliers; IAAPA, IAPE, IISA, NICA

Facebook
[facebook.com/OutdoorAmusementBusinessAssoc](https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorAmusementBusinessAssoc)

Twitter
[@OabaInfo](https://twitter.com/OabaInfo)

Instagram
[@outdooramusementbusinessassoc](https://www.instagram.com/outdooramusementbusinessassoc)

Email: oaba@oaba.org

1035 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 1045 | Winter Park, FL 32792

A Kings Island classic gets upgrades



The Racer twin racing wooden roller coaster has been the focal point of the Coney Mall area of Ohio's Kings Island, near Cincinnati, since the theme park opened in 1972. Much care goes into The Racer each winter to keep the ride in peak operating condition. Annual work during the cold-weather months may include replacing a number of the running rails, support bents and ledgers, or sections of track. Some years, one side of the ride may need more extensive work than the other — such as this winter, which saw the back turnaround on the north (blue trains) side retracked by Great Coasters Intl. of Sunbury, Pa., in December. In addition to the yearly maintenance work, the cars from each of The Racer's four trains are stripped down to every last nut and bolt for thorough inspection, X-rays and other testing. More than 105 million guests have ridden The Racer since its April 29, 1972, debut — the most in park history. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

EVERYTHING YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

- › Touchscreen interface
- › Redundant controls (joystick & touchscreen)
- › Maintenance available onscreen
- › Remote access for troubleshooting
- › Easy to operate & train

ELI BRIDGE COMPANY
Building rides people have enjoyed for over a century.

217-245-7145 • FAX: 217-479-0103 • elibridge.com • EMAIL: info@elibridge.com

SAFETY MARKET PLACE

AUDIO INNOVATORS INC.



YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR ALL DIGITAL MESSAGE REPEATERS & COMMUNICATING EQUIPMENT NEEDS.



**WATER PARK SAFETY - GO-KART PIT SAFETY - KIDDY RIDES
FRONT GATE - COASTERS - GROUP GAMES
SAFETY MESSAGES SYSTEMS OF ALL KINDS.
ALL ARE WITCH TURN-KEY.**

**WE SERVE AMUSEMENT PARKS OF ALL KINDS.
AIRPORTS, WATER PARKS, TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND VIDEO DEMOS
WWW.AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM**

OFFICE 800.222.9929 - FAX 813.200.4600 - SALES@AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM

Aerial Tramway Design & Manufacture



SkyTrans Mfg., L.L.C.

106 Burnham Intervale Road
Contoocook, N.H. 03229
Phone: (603) 746-4446 Fax: (603) 746-4447

- Specializing in sales & refurbishment of used aerial tramways
- Replacement parts for aerial tramways and amusement rides
- New ride control systems and modifications
- Rebuilt used chairlifts - one year guarantee

Parts and Service

**(603) 746-4446
Dan Pendleton**

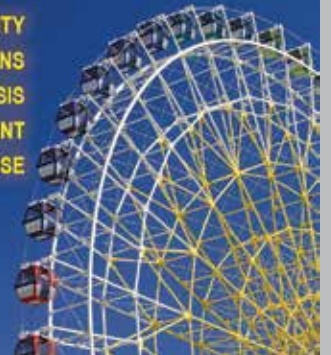
The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC

Serving the Amusement Industry



- SAFETY & SECURITY
- OPERATIONS
- RISK & CRISIS MANAGEMENT
- INDUSTRY DEFENSE

685 S. Streeter Rd.
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
(419) 607-0431
www.thehoffmancg.com



CONTROL SYSTEMS & CONSULTING FOR THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

- ★ NEW INSTALLATIONS
- ★ RETROFITS
- ★ PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CONSULTING



**IRVINE
ONDREY
ENGINEERING**

WE CONTROL THE THRILLS!

CALL 734.353.0679
WWW.IRVINEONDREY.COM ★ BRIAN@IRVINEONDREY.COM

**Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.**

CALENDAR

2019

IISF Trade Show

Feb. 5-8, 2019
Riverview, Fla. • (813) 677-9377
www.gibtownshowmensclub.com

IRT/iROC Operations Safety Training School

Feb. 5-8, 2019 • Foley, Ala., The Park at OWA
(615) 545-8109 • cindee@ridetraining.com
Hands-on ride operations training at The Park at OWA

Northwestern Showmen's Club (NWSC) Safety Seminar

Feb. 17-22, 2019
Oaks Amusement Park and Funtastic Shows Campus
Portland, Ore.
www.nwshowmensclub.com • 503-761-0015

2019 NAARSO East Coast Training

Feb. 19-21, 2019
Golden Nugget Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J.
www.njamusements.com

Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

Feb. 26-28, 2019 • Harrisburg, Pa.
Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center / Harrisburg
Joe Filoramo, (717) 215-4316 or Phil Slaggert, (561) 758-3266
www.paridesafety.com

106th Anniversary NEAAPA Education Conference & Annual Meeting

Including NAARSO Outreach Safety School
March 18-22, 2019
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place
Springfield, Mass.
(877) 999-8740 • www.neaapa.com

AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo 2019

Conference: March 26, 2019, Trade Show: March 27 & 28
Las Vegas Convention Center (Hall TBA)
Las Vegas, Nev. • (708) 226-1300
www.amusementexpo.org

IAAPA Expo Asia 2019

Conference: June 11-14, Trade Show: June 12-14
Shanghai New International Expo Centre
Shanghai, China
www.iaapa.org

2019 Golden Ticket Awards

presented by Amusement Today
September 6 & 7

Host Park: Silverwood Theme Park, Hayden, Idaho
Event Hotel: Coeur D' Alene Golf & Spa Resort
Event details to be announced in May
www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

IAAPA Expo Europe 2019

Conference: Sept. 16-19, Trade Show: Sept. 17-19
Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, Paris, France
www.iaapa.org

WWA Annual Symposium & Trade Show

Conference: Oct. 7-10 / Trade Show: Oct. 8-9
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at
Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Fla.
www.waterparks.org

IAAPA Expo 2019

Conference: Nov. 18-22, Trade Show: Sept. 19-22
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.
www.iaapa.org

Have a Calendar event listing you want to share?
Email it to: editorial@amusementtoday.com

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Wonderland Amusement Park enjoys upgrades



In addition to performing winter maintenance, Wonderland Amusement Park in Amarillo, Texas, is putting in new equipment and generally sprucing up. Paul Borchardt, park owner (below left), poses with a vehicle from the antique car ride he purchased along with an SBF spinning coaster from Rides-4U of Somerville, N.J.; the latter's rehab includes new vehicle seating (below right). The busy crew includes (from left) Terrel Keksi, Chandler Martinez, Jay White, Jack Lamb, Jason Vigil, Jacob Vigil, Chris Weathers, John Grabber (in back), Richard Kelley and Gage Giles. AT/GARY SLADE



Storm lands blow on Joyland Amusement Park



On Dec. 8, a winter storm hit the greater Lubbock, Texas, area with a record one-foot snowfall — collapsing a picnic area roof at Joyland Amusement Park and leaving the property's Sellner Dizzy Dragons ride (immediate right) with a frosty coating. COURTESY DAVID DEAN/JOYLAND PARK



Zoo selects Access Group for management solutions

CHESTER, England — The North of England Zoological Society, the charity that owns and operates Chester Zoo, has selected the Access Group's visitor attraction management and fundraising CRM (customer-relationship management) solutions for a wide range of functions across its 125-acre site.

Chester Zoo is the most-visited zoo in the U.K. and set a new attendance record in 2018, welcoming nearly two million guests. It anticipates that by implementing Access's integrated software systems, it will achieve operational efficiencies, drive revenues, and generally provide the freedom to deliver a more satisfying and memorable visitor experience.

Zoo commercial operations covered by the Access Gamma and Access thankQ systems include admissions, memberships, bookings, retail, and food and beverage. Having a single source of data is expected to allow a more customer-focused approach, increasing charitable donations, driving income, and improving engagement with visitors and members — all of which support the zoo's mission.

"We are pleased to appoint Access as one of our key partners in helping us deliver our strategy," said Liz Carnie, zoo finance director. "It is important that our systems make the visitors' journey as smooth as possible so that they can get the most out of their visit and support us in our mission to prevent extinction."



Gary Drew, director of Access's nonprofit and visitor attraction management division, added: "We are delighted to welcome Chester Zoo to the Access family. We believe our unique, integrated solution will give the zoo a global view and understanding that was previously not possible for them. We look forward to having a positive impact on Chester Zoo's venue and fundraising management efforts."

Access is a leading provider of business and CRM software to the U.K. mid-market. It offers a unified, streamlined platform underpinned by technology that connects suites of finance and human resources software integrated with industry-specific, mission-critical products — enabling colleagues to work together more effectively and connecting the right people with the right data. Self-service apps meet individual demands for flexibility while boosting productivity.

The company's nonprofit and visitor attraction management solutions are used by more than 1,200 charities, membership organizations, educational establishments and attractions in the U.K.

Visit the company's website, theaccessgroup.com, for more information.

—Dean Lamanna



Chester Zoo is streamlining its operations using the Access Group's Access Gamma and Access thankQ software systems. COURTESY CHESTER ZOO



727-210-7447

SAFETY INSPECTION SERVICES





Be Aware - Be Ready - Be Safe



www.ljmsafety.com






One Source for all your Water Park Maintenance

High Performance Polyurethane Paints

☎ 314-524-0191 www.waterparktech.com

Rock Work



Decking



Pools & Concrete



Slides





- Theming
- Clear Coats

- Decorative
- Non-Slip Safety

- Pools
- Lazy Rivers

- Interior
- Exterior

Factory Direct for DIY or use our Nationwide Contractor Network!

HAVE SAFETY, MAINTENANCE, OR OPERATIONS NEWS?

EMAIL IT TO editorial@amusementtoday.com!

Annual World Aquatic Health Conference broadens its reach

Remote broadcasts reached about 200 added participants

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The 15th annual **World Aquatic Health Conference (WAHC)** saw its largest attendance ever this past fall, attracting nearly 600 aquatic professionals from all over the world to Charleston, S.C., and six remote locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Organized by the **National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF)**, the gathering provides an opportunity for environmental health officials, facility managers, pool designers, academics, service professionals and other industry leaders to collaborate across disciplines — promoting the health benefits of aquatic activity and working to safeguard public health.

For the first time ever, those unable to attend the main conference in Charleston were able to enjoy WAHC events. About 200 attendees participated from remote



locations for lecture track broadcasts directly from the main event. With the help of NSPF's partners and sponsors, these broadcasts allowed the conference to greatly expand its reach and extend a vital conversation.

The broadcasts were available at **Great Wolf Lodge** resorts in the remote host cities. The resorts also provided participants behind-the-scenes tours of their aquatic facilities.

Attendees in Charleston

were treated to the event's **Insider's Tour**. A mainstay of the conference, the tour gives aquatic professionals a chance to learn about select aquatic facilities and initiatives in the conference host city. The highlight of the tour was a presentation by the **Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission** on its portable pool initiative, which brings both swimming instruction and the pool itself to communities in need.

Offering eight lecture tracks related to public and environmental health, air and water quality, recreational water illnesses, new technology and facility management, WAHC presented a wealth of research, as well as an immediate opportunity for participants to engage in discussions with leading professionals.

Session topics included interlock safety, national water safety plans, legal issues in aquatic, preventing sexual harassment and predators, and facility management and design, as well as learn-to-swim initiatives.



This year's **Environmental Health Symposium**, the WAHC's annual meeting of EH officials from all over the U.S., was a great success. COURTESY NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION

The 16th annual WAHC takes place Oct. 16-18 in Williamsburg, Va. Early registration begins in April. Interested presenters and attendees can learn more at thewahc.org.

In other NSPF news, the organization has announced the election of new officers. All are experienced members of the board.

Swim Across America CEO and six-year board member **Rob Butcher** replaces **G. Bruce Dunn** as president, and Ecolab's **James R. Mock** — an

NSPF instructor for more than 15 years — now serves as vice president. **Karl R. Frykman** and **Julie Gilchrist, M.D.**, have assumed the roles of treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Additionally, **Michelle Kavanaugh** has assumed the role of executive director of **The Pool Spa & Aquatics Alliance** and **The California Pool & Spa Association**, and NSPF has named **Andrew Roberts** as its new mission development manager, replacing Kavanaugh in the role.

—Dean Lamanna

Financing your exciting moments.



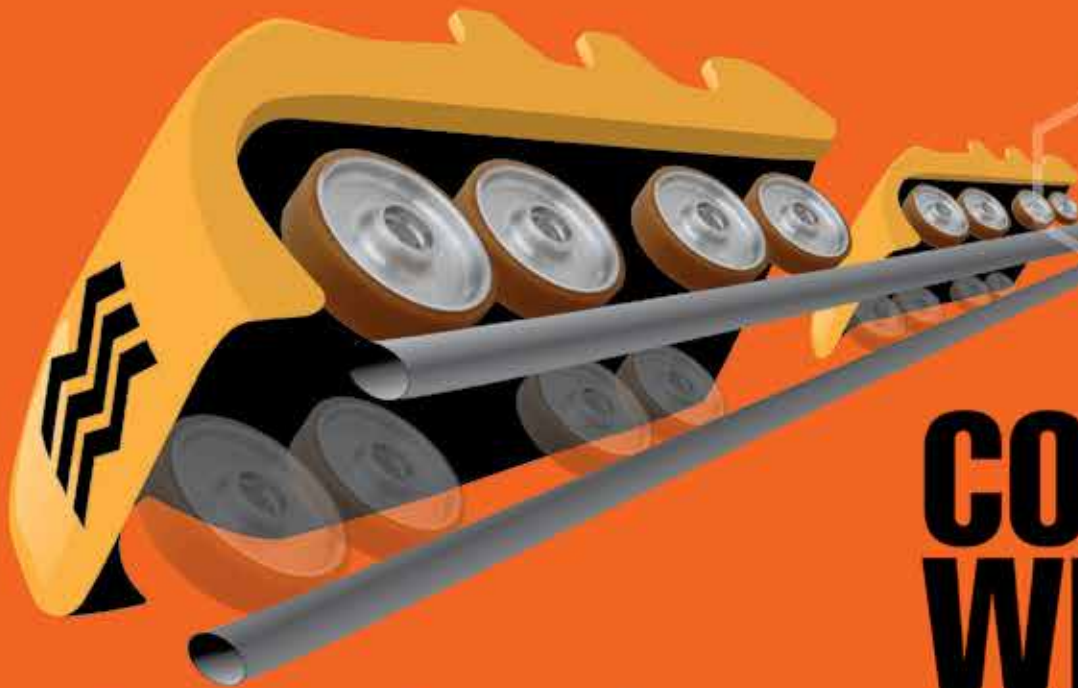
LOOK
FOR US AT
GIBTOWN!
BOOTH
#1128

FIRESTONE FINANCIAL
A Berkshire Bank Company

800-851-1001 ext. 41
firestonefinancial.com

Firestone Financial is an affiliate of Berkshire Bank (Member FDIC).

Life is exciting. Let us help.®

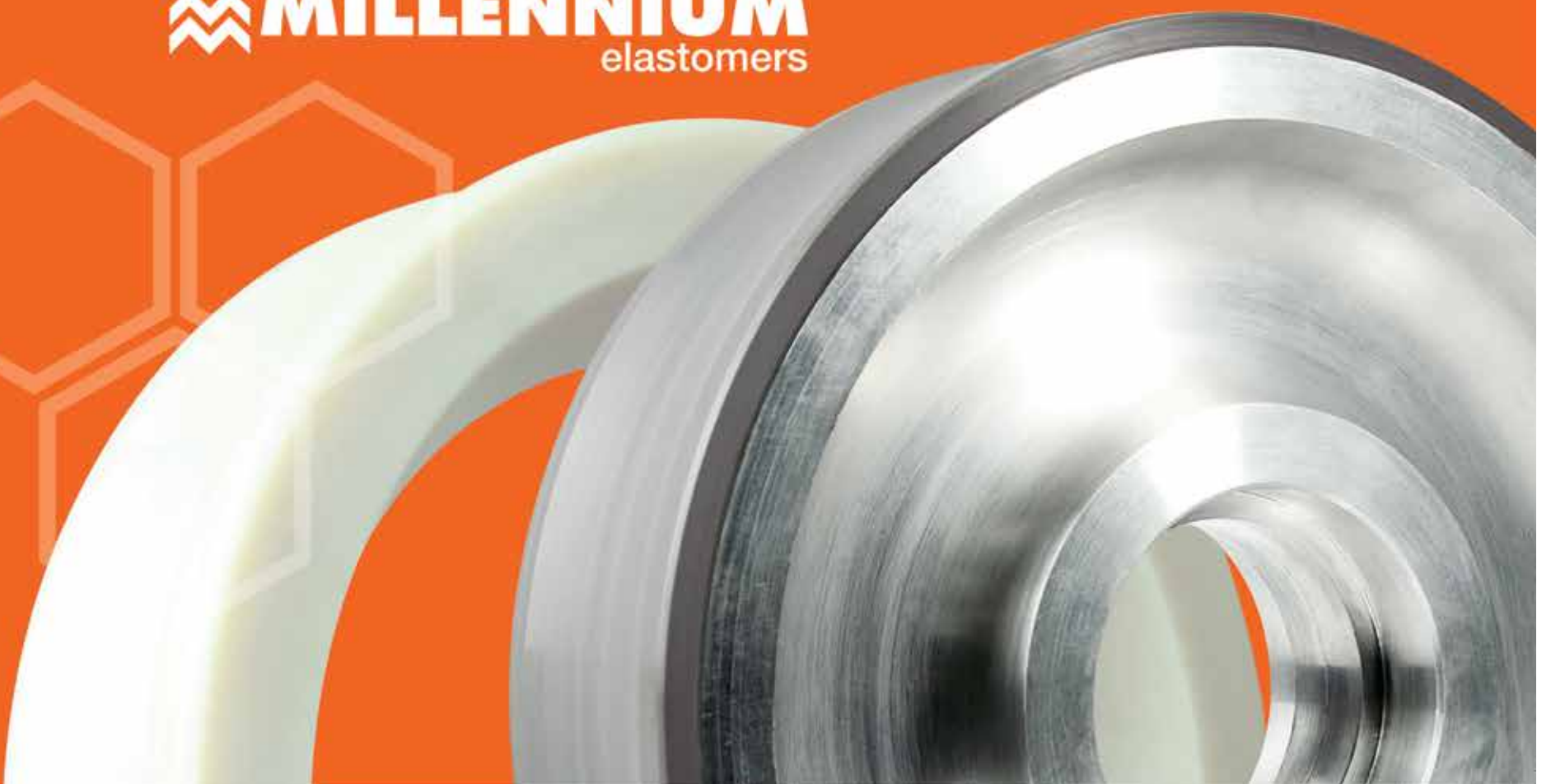


**10% SHOW
SPECIAL**

www.millenniumelastomers.com
Toll Free 800 421-1180

 **MILLENNIUM**
elastomers

**COASTER
WHEELS**
**ALL MAKES
& MODELS**
NEW & RECOVER
POLYURETHANE
NYLON
TO OEM SPECS



APSP's vice president of technical and standards honored

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) has announced that Carvin DiGiovanni, vice president of technical and standards, has received two major industry honors.

Late last year, DiGiovanni was named the recipient of the **World Waterpark Association's** (WWA) **Al**



Turner Commitment to Excellence Award and was recognized for his service on the

International Code Council's (ICC) Plumbing Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Pools and Spas (PMG) Membership Council.

The WWA award and the ICC recognition were presented at the WWA's and ICC's annual conferences.

For more than 28 years, DiGiovanni has been working towards industry excellence. He has forged strong relation-

ships with top industry partners and has been a driving force in making a safer and stronger industry — helping to position APSP on the cutting edge of today's pool and hot tub industry needs. Throughout his pool and hot tub industry career, he has been a mentor and respected industry leader and is known for his thoughtful and strategic leadership.

The **Al Turner Commitment to Excellence Award** recognized DiGiovanni's dedication and longtime collaboration with the WWA to create the organization's first **American National Standards Institute** (ANSI)-approved standard for the water park industry: **ANSI/APSP-9 2005 American National Standard for Aquatic Recreational Facilities**. Covering the design, construction, equipment operation, signs, installation, sanitation, new construction and rehabilitation of water parks, the standard is now the basis for many of the state regulations governing such facilities.

The **PMG Official Membership Council** is staffed by industry leaders involved in the plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas and swimming pool community. These leaders share their technical expertise and experience to chart the direction of ICC.

DiGiovanni has served on the council for seven years and was formally recognized for his dedication and service. In 2014, he was recognized by ICC as an **Affiliate Award** winner for his work and collaboration to create the **International Swimming Pool & Spa Code** to ensure public safety.

Recipients of the **ICC Affiliate Award** demonstrate integrity, professionalism and dedication through service to the building safety profession and personal standards representing the spirit of public service to the development of codes and standards in the interest of public safety.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the industry," DiGiovanni said. "Forging the pathway for the next generation isn't easy, but through hard work and collaboration, great things happen."

"Over the years, we've created amazing partnerships with both the WWA and ICC. These relationships have allowed us the ability to make strides in building a stronger and safer industry. I look forward to continuing my journey towards industry excellence."

The **Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP)** is the world's oldest and largest association representing swimming pool, hot tub and spa manufacturers, including distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, suppliers, retailers and service professionals.

• apsp.org

Masters in the art of insuring amusement risks.

Since 1983, we've crafted risk management solutions solely for the Amusement, Entertainment and Leisure industries.

That's expertise we bring to your business.

We find the perfect mix of innovative and affordable insurance programs for each and every individual client, then add 24/7 claims service to give you peace of mind.



Call and see how we can help:

800.235.8774

www.alliedspecialty.com

Insurance policies are administered by Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc. (in California dba Allied Specialty Insurance Agency License No. 0748144). Allied Specialty Insurance is a trademark of AXA SA or its affiliates. AXA XL is a division of AXA Group providing products and services through four business groups: AXA XL Insurance, AXA XL Reinsurance, AXA XL Art & Lifestyle and AXA XL Risk Consulting. Coverages are underwritten by the following AXA XL insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Not all of the insurers do business in all jurisdictions nor is coverage available in all jurisdictions.



CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

NORTON AUCTIONEERS

THE INDUSTRY EXPERTS!

Professional Auctioneers & Appraisers
*Carnivals • Parks • Carousels
FEC's • Museums • Tourist Attractions*

P.O. Box 279, Coldwater, MI 49036

517-279-9063

Fax: 517-279-4899

www.nortonauctioneers.com

E-mail: Dan@nortonauctioneers.com

FOR SALE

- Vekoma Corkscrew Coaster.....\$499,000
- Zamperla Compact Coaster.....\$19,000
- Moser Spring Ride 5 + 5.....\$79,000
- Tivoli Spinout (T/M).....\$149,000
- Technical Park Tropical Storm.....\$399,000
- S & S Double Shot tower 80'.....\$399,000
- Zamperla Speedway (never used).....\$159,000
- SBF Drop N' Twist 12-seater.....\$169,000
- Moser 25mt Tower (never used).....\$349,000
- KMG Fireball (all new seats & new arms).....\$299,000
- Majestic Scooter 1800 Euro (T/M).....\$350,000
- Dartron Downdraft (T/M).....\$275,000
- Majestic Musik Express (T/M).....\$425,000
- Chance 36' Carousel (T/M).....\$175,000
- ARM Ali Baba (T/M).....\$249,000
- Majestic Catch-n-Air (T/M).....\$300,000
- Zamperla Samba Balloon.....\$89,000
- Majestic Wiggle Worm.....\$59,000
- Eli Bridge Kiddie Swing (T/M).....\$19,900
- Wisdom Orient Express.....\$79,000
- Mel Park Tea Cups (T/M).....\$29,000
- Sartori Convoy.....\$19,000

Call Len or Earl
(908) 526-8009

FAX: (908) 526-4535
www.Rides4U.com

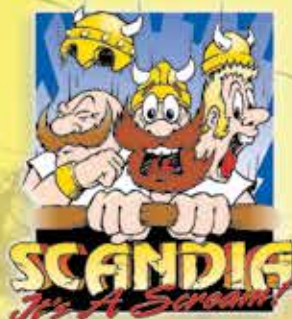
FOR SALE

PROUDLY WORKING WITH THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN-MADE COMPANIES:

- Premier Rides • Sally Dark Rides •
- Swanee River Railroad Co. • Owen Trailers •
- Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. •



Check out the latest premium new and used rides at:
[facebook.com/IRMRides](https://www.facebook.com/IRMRides)
or call (609) 425-1220 to receive a current list.



EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

- S & S Screaming Swing (T/M).....\$125,000
- Wisdom Gravitron (P/M).....\$50,000
- Zamperla Galleon (P/M).....\$65,000
- Family Molina Coaster (117'x35').....\$30,000
- Zamperla Convoy (P/M).....\$30,000
- Zamperla Elephant & Dragon (P/M).....\$35,000
- Miler Big coaster (90' high, 310' long).....\$950,000
- Zamperla Rio Grande Train (P/M).....\$15,000
- Dartron Fun Slide (T/M).....\$40,000
- Zamperla Fire Chief (P/M).....\$25,000
- Zamperla Red Barron (P/M).....\$30,000



Supplying Amusements New to Used

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

- Wisdom Tiger Coaster
- Moser Spring Tower
- Rideworks Tea Cups
- Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl
- Sartori Fun Truck
- SDC Galaxi Coaster



- 1979 Eyerly Sidewinder
- 1998 Sellner Spin the Apple Ride (w/ factory trailer)
- 1972 Hrubetz Rim Drive Paratrooper
- Eyerly Ground Model Lady Bug Ride (six car)
- 1989 Childress Slide
- Moser 10-passenger Spring Ride (ground model)

TO PURCHASE, CONTACT:

LEN SOLED OR EARL HELLER +1 (908) 526-8009 OR **MARK BLUMHAGEN** +1 (509) 990-2968

221 Evans Way, Suite E • Somerville, N.J. 08876 • www.Rides4U.com



ZAMPERLA®

Roller Coasters



THUNDERBOLT

MUST HAVE RIDEZ

Designed by Zamperla's Roller Coaster Department in collaboration with the world-renowned coaster guru, Stengel Buro, the Thunderbolt is the right choice for parks looking for a thrilling and unforgettable roller coaster ride.

zamperla.com

Antonio Zamperla Spa - Vicenza - Italy - Phone: +39 0444 998400 - e-mail: zamperla@zamperla.it